Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-244
Friday
18 December 1992

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FBIS-LAT-92-244 *18 December 1992*

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Cuba

Military Exercise Begins in Western Region

FL1812013392 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The military exercise called 34th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution began today at several artillery ranges in the western region of the country. This demonstration exercise, which will conclude tomorrow, is marked by the great complexity of its tactical elements. The troops must demonstrate the level of preparation they have achieved in the present training year. Tank, artillery, aviation, anti-aircraft, fire-support, helicopter, and multilateral security units are participating in the 34th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution exercise.

The bilateral nature of the operation, in which a portion of the troops will simulate the enemy, and the realization of daytime and nighttime battles, demand the best effort of the soldiers, who are expected to perform well.

Military Maneuvers, Guerrilla Exercises Intensify

PA1812003292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2310 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Havana, 17 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government has intensified demonstrations of its military maneuvers and activated guerrilla warfare activities aimed at increasing the vigilance in neighborhoods, schools, and work centers.

Brigadier General Erminio Hernandez of the Revolutionary Armed Forces reported the Army reportedly had initiated on 17 December military maneuvers considered "very complex tactical episodes."

The military exercise was initiated in the western part of Cuba, a region that Raul Castro has been visiting since 16 December. Raul Castro is Revolutionary Armed Forces minister and second secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC).

Hernandez said the maneuvers are "of a demonstrative nature" and are being carried out at several rifle ranges in the western part of the island on 16 and 17 December.

The brigadier general said that units of tanks, artillery, aviation, antiaircraft, support helicopters, and securing forces are taking part in these exercises.

Hernandez also said that despite the limitations due to the economic crisis—known here as the special period in peacetime—the training programs for the troops were carried out as required.

In the western part of the country, the "Guerrillas 92" exercise was carried out. The goal of this exercise is to increase the revolutionary vigilance in neighborhoods, communities, and student and work centers.

Eugenio Cuevas—member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Guantanamo Province—called the military exercise "successful." He pointed out that it enabled the efficiency of the Interior Ministry Armed Forces to be demonstrated.

Further on Raul Castro Tour of Isle of Youth

FL1712181192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], continued touring the Western Army territory by visiting several military units and installations. The 1180th Tank Battalion held an emotional ceremony in which the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister presented the Ready for Defense in the Second Phase banner to two organizations of the special municipality: delegations from Customs and the Cuban Institute of Hydrography, and the No. 13 Defense Zone of La Fe locality.

At the end of 1991, two other defense zones, No. 5 from Chacon and No. 15 from Cocodrilo, had also earned this distinction as a result of fulfilling the demanding parameters established in their integral preparation for the war of all the people. Tank Battalion Chief Captain Valentin Gor reported on the combat readiness of his unit, maintenance work, and the readiness of combat equipment.

In his speech, Army General Raul Castro said:

[Begin Castro recording] In these recent years, years of difficulties, years of serious international complications, and of repercussions, internally recognized in Cuba, which have caused the situation of a special period during peace time, despite this limitation, we have seen how the island has continued to progress, using all the local methods, despite shortages of fuel, cement, steel, etc., in a proportion which the great majority of the country's municipalities have overcome.

The island is not the property of three large estate holders as it was during the time of capitalism. The island no longer has one of its principal centers, the ominous Model Prison built in the 1930's. The people of Isle of Pines and all Cubans, in the same way that the other, larger island, which you sometimes call Cuba, also belongs to all of you.... [end recording]

Advancements in the construction of civil defense tunnels and other fortifications were noted at different places on the Isle of Youth. The FAR minister held a lively conversation with a group of miners, who contributed their experience to the masses' effort to prepare the theater of military operations. In the meeting with soldiers of the infantry brigade, Raul was given a detailed report on the unit's situation and the fulfillment of its principal tasks by Colonel Orlando Sanchez Olivares. The minister and his companions praised the positive work results of this brigade, which has earned first place two years in a row among these kinds of units in the

western part of the country. A tour of different parts of the brigade's facilities confirmed significant accomplishments, including the reduction of fuel consumption to less than 10 percent in 1992 in comparison to 1990 without affecting combat readiness. This year's food plan presents a paradox: They will surpass meat production goals but will fail to reach miscellaneous crops goals.

Nevertheless, the unit is preparing to increase food production by 30 percent in 1993 in accordance with the minister's orders to different FAR commands. The brigade's experimental advancements are also significant in strengthening military discipline, weaponry readiness, and preparations in the military operations theater. The second secretary received a more detailed report on the progress of the food program at the municipal General Staff facilities, where it was reiterated that self-sufficiency will be guaranteed in 1993.

An important point of the FAR minister's tour was the visit to the Isle of Youth Integral Electric Enterprise, a center that is responsible for maintaining the economic vitality of the territory with a reduction of fuel of almost 40 percent. The FAR minister was especially interested in equipment maintenance and was very pleased to learn that they are working toward converting generators to fuel-oil instead of diesel, which would reduce hard currency expenditures by about 50 percent.

An extensive exhibition of the island's productions in different economic spheres at the Isle of Youth Cuban Academy of Sciences was the next stop on the tour. There Raul saw some of what the residents have achieved in scientific research, the food program, construction, gastronomy, health, ceramics, high-demand products [words indistinct], criteria for the production of biological products for agricultural use, [words indistinct] the Isle of Youth is self-sufficient, and experiences in becoming specialists in gastronomy especially caught the attention of the Central Committee second secretary and his companions.

Raul said the most important thing was to systematize these productions, increase them to the maximum level possible, and improve their quality. The tour concluded with a meeting of members of the exhibiting units and the political and mass organizations on the Isle of Youth. The FAR minister, after referring to the country's situation, his visit to the island, and his impressions obtained here, said:

[Begin Castro recording] We congratulate you on behalf of our working group and the Politburo, and bring you Comrade Fidel's greetings. He asked me to bring you these greetings during this visit and conclude, as Comrade Almeida would, as is being shown by the Isle of Youth residents, that if [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Castro Urges 'Rapid Implementation' of Innovations

FL1712143192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] During the closing of the 7th National Spare Parts, Equipment, and Advanced Technology Forum, the commander in chief said:

[Begin Castro recording] If there is a result, it must be generalized and sometimes we even have to take certain risks. We can not spend 10 years testing. In a war, nobody spends 10 years testing in order to solve any problem. In a war you spend 10 days testing.

During the war, we also invented a few things, made certain innovations. We invented a lot. It is a miracle we did not blow ourselves up. We made up some kind of guided missiles [word indistinct] without any supplies. We could not afford to waste time. We did not have normal conditions to conduct such research. We made flechettes, and we made grenades which we launched from rifles, shotguns, or from anything else.

In these times, any result has to be implemented immediately. We must have an awareness of the times, the needs, and the circumstances. We have to generalize. This is what generalizing means. Of course, generalization is not the responsibility of the commissions alone, nor of the inventors, the efficiency experts, the scientists. Generalization is everyone's responsibility. It is the responsibility of the mass organizations, the state leadership, and the party leadership. Everyone has to work on this thing called generalization, or what we could call the rapid implementation of research results. This is why I said that all these issues dealing with essential problems have to be speeded up. [end recording]

Commentary Views U.S. Release of Mexican Doctor

PA1712162092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 92

["Our America" commentary read by Amalia San Martino]

[Text] After a trial that was filled with false evidence and witnesses, Mexican Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, who was accused of complicity in the kidnapping, torture, and assassination of Enrique Camarena Salazar, a member of the DEA, was released on 15 December in the city of Los Angeles. Machain was kidnapped in the Mexican city of Guadalajara in 1990 by DEA agents and taken to U.S. territory for trial. The existing extradition treaty between Mexico and Washington was not considered.

Quite the contrary, demonstrating arbitrariness and usurping the territory of the neighboring country, the DEA agents kidnapped Machain, giving rise to acute conflicts between the South American and U.S. authorities. To prove a man is capable of kidnapping, torture, and assassination, the evidence must be more solid than

that which you have presented. The evidence does not meet the minimum requirement to take the case to court. This was stated by Federal Judge Edward Rafeedie on rejecting the charges filed against the Mexican. Despite protests by Mexico and many Latin American countries, which expressed their support for the neighboring country, and even protests by the OAS, the Supreme Court determined that Mexican Humberto Alvarez Machain had not violated the extradition treaty between the two countries and reaffirmed the argument that U.S. courts can try a suspect, regardless of the means used to bring him to trial.

When the trial of Alvarez Machain began, the Mexican Office of the Attorney General said the trial was plagued from the political, juridical, and moral standpoint: politically, because the U.S. Supreme Court considered factors and admitted as legal the extraterritorial action; juridically, because the trial was plagued with illegalities; and morally, because it permitted the testimony of paid witnesses with criminal records. The Machain case led Mexico to request a revision of the extradition treaty signed with the United States in 1978, because it considered the kidnapping of the Mexican doctor a violation of the treaty.

The Mexican Chamber of Deputies is of the opinion that the release of Alvarez Machain is a triumph of Mexican diplomacy in view of its insistence regarding a case that was arbitrary in every respect. The acquittal of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain is also a victory for the country against an open case of meddlesome, abusive, and illegal extra-territoriality. Those who compare this kidnapping case with the application of amendments such as the Torricelli Bill are not mistaken. The United States also tries to impose it in Mexican territory.

The use of mandates or extraterritorial laws is interference in the domestic affairs of other countries and an affront to its sovereignty. The U.S. Government is prone to these types of mechanisms; however, we would need to see how the U.S. Government would react if the case were reversed.

Switzerland Extends Bilateral Trade Agreements

FL1812013092 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Today, Cuba and Switzerland extended for another year the bilateral trade agreement that dates back to 1954. Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon [words indistinct] Swiss Ambassador to Cuba Mr. Harald Borner signed the extension agreement. The objective of the agreement is to regulate the trade between the two countries on a mutually satisfactory basis.

[Begin Alarcon recording] Our relations are based exclusively on the GATT standards and the agreements signed between the two countries and not on other foreign measures. I believe this is a demonstration of how the rest of the world [words indistinct] do not lend themselves to embargos and exclusions such as those that the United States is trying to (?impose) on Cuba. [end recording]

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. Harald Borner expressed hope for new momentum and prospects in the trade relations between Cuba and Switzerland.

Dominican Republic

ECC Donates 212 Million Pesos to Import Program

FL1712200492 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The EEC has donated 212 million pesos to complete the sum of 362 million pesos allocated to the Dominican Republic as part of the program for importing petroleum derivatives. (Martin Maloney), the EEC representative in the Dominican Republic, stated that he had given the good news to President Joaquin Balaguer during a meeting held at the National Palace. The total of the donation under the EEC-sponsored program was 22 million ECUs, the official EEC currency, divided into one part of 3.5 million ECUs—equivalent to 212 million pesos—plus 8.5 million ECUs, as part of the national program. [all figures as heard] These figures equal a total 362 million pesos. This has been met with the release of the final 212 million pesos.

Haiti

CEP Responsible For Setting Up Electoral Offices

FL1712183092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Even before the Permanent Electoral [CEP] was formed, there were rumors throughout the country that Departmental Electoral Offices [Bureau Electoral Departmental, BED] and Communal Electoral Offices [Bureau Electoral Communal, BEC] were being set up. To put an end to those rumors, the CEP has issued a communique informing the public that it is the sole institution entitled to set up BEC's, BED's, and Registration and Voting Offices [Bureau d'Inscription et de Vote, BIV] throughout the entire Haitian territory.

The CEP, announcing it will do all it can to set up those offices promptly, adds that it is ready to assume all its responsibilities in order to effect the elections. It calls on all national sectors to help fulfill this mission to guarantee democracy in Haiti.

MDN Criticizes OAS, UN Attitude Toward Crisis

FL1712213292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Mobilization for National Development, MDN, reiterates that the only thing that can help Haiti out of the political crisis it is experiencing is the holding of presidential elections within a short time. In response to the latest OAS resolution against Haiti, the MDN has severely criticized the attitude of the OAS and the United Nations toward this crisis. These organizations have chosen to impose enormous sanctions against a poor little country like Haiti because this country is trying to solve a political problem in accordance with its Constitution and its laws.

The party led by Hubert de Ronceray regrets that the leaders of these two organizations confuse elections with democracy, and congratulates the representatives of countries such as Mexico and Colombia for disagreeing with the resolution the OAS adopted against Haiti. It also asks all those who are defending peace and international cooperation to disregard those who are prompting them to destroy the Haitian people.

This position is the reaction of the MDN following the resolution on which the OAS voted on 13 December that asks the United Nations to help it resolve the Haitian political crisis. [passage omitted]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Prime Minister Questions LIAT Profitability

FL1712180392 Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec. 17, CANA—Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has complained of "some sinister manoeuvres to prevent the privatisation" of LIAT, the airline owned by Caribbean Community governments.

Mitchell told CANA in a telephone conversation that he had "good reasons" for expressing his concerns to his Caricom counterparts about "the latest developments in LIAT that seem designed to frustrate efforts to privatise the airline".

Management officials of LIAT would not comment and the regional airline's Barbados-based chairman, Rawle Brancker, was unavailable for an immediate response.

Mitchell, who was chosen by Caricom colleagues to head a committee on the restructuring of LIAT, said he has spent "considerable time over the past five years" dealing with the matter.

Contrary to a recent claim of the airline's "profitability", said Mitchell, there was information "that suggest that LIAT is faced with serious financial problems".

The prime minister said he could not get the airline's top management to answer "very important questions on financial matters', all of which, he added, "are related to the restructuring programme and inquiries from bidders interested in the new ownership proposals".

Mitchell is scheduled to make a broadcast statement here Thursday night on the future of LIAT as he winds up the House of Assembly debate on the country's new budget.

Earlier, he had indicated that his restructuring committee would shortly be evaluating the bids from international airlines for ownership of LIAT and that the exercise should be completed within the first half of 1993.

Mitchell has also confirmed receiving information which he said he was "checking with LIAT's management", about "accountability" for some EC1.5 million dollars (one East Caribbean dollar ; 37 US cents) from the airline's provident fund and the threat of loss of jobs facing more than 130 workers.

Unemployment Figures Lower Than Projected

FL1712170592 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec 17, CANA—The official rate of unemployment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been put at 19 per cent, Prime Minister James Mitchell said.

Mitchell, quoting the final national population and housing census report, said while this was still "an unacceptably high level of unemployment especially in view of the fact that the unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group is higher than average, it is far from the 30-50 per cent range usually propagandised".

The national population and housing census was conducted here in 1991 and a preliminary report released a few months later.

It showed the population of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to be just over 107,000 but provided no details of employment.

Mitchell said the final report which provides this and other details would be released soon.

Persons here have varyingly placed the unemployment figure at between 30-50 per cent of the labour force.

According to Mitchell, the measurement of unemployment levels were done "in keeping with the standard International Labour Organisation definitions."

Mitchell said the report showed that 34,046 persons were employed while 7,984 persons said they had either looked for work or wanted work at the time of the census "giving an unemployment rate of 19 per cent."

"This indicates that the economic growth achieved in recent times has had a positive impact on employment levels," Mitchell concluded.

He said the report also indicated that 39 per cent of households were headed by women. "Because of the social implications of this phenomenon a more detailed study will be done," he said.

Trinidad and Tobago

PSA Leader's Death 'Monumental Loss' to Labor

FL1712191792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1902 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 17, CANA—Shocked colleagues on Thursday said the sudden death of prominent Trinidad and Tobago labour leader Dr Kenrick Rennie was a monumental loss to the country's labour movement.

Dr Rennie, who was president of the Public Services Association (PSA), the main public workers union here, and vice-president of the umbrella National Trade Union Centre (NATUC), was killed in a car crash early Thursday.

Dr Rennie was also an executive member of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL).

Roland Graham, acting PSA president, said the 44-year-old Dr Rennie had contributed greatly to the labour movement.

"(His death is) a tremendous loss. Every aspect of the struggles facing working people, he was always concerned about them," Graham told CANA.

Dr Rennie, a clinical psychologist by profession, was to have been part of a large delegation of public sector union officials which was to meet Finance Minister Wendell Mottley and Chief Personnel Officer Roland Baptiste on Thursday afternoon.

That meeting, to discuss arrears which the government owes public workers, was called off.

On Wednesday afternoon, Rennie and other executive members of NATUC had met Mottley and Public Administration Minister Gordon Draper to discuss issues affecting workers and the state of the country's economy.

Several government ministers including Labour Minister Ken Collis and Works Minister Morris Marshall, have sent condolences to the PSA and Rennie's relatives.

The Employers' Consultative Association (ECA) said it learned with surprise and dismay of the untimely death of the union leader. Stating that it had followed the work of Dr Rennie with great interest, the association added: "His indefatigable zeal and his courage in the face of obstacles, we believe to have been the hallmarks of his career."

President Discusses Signing of NAFTA

PA1712233592 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 2046 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the signing of the Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, in Mexico City on 17 December—recorded]

[Text] Fellow Mexicans, this morning the President of the United States, the prime minister of Canada, and the president of Mexico signed the Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA]. We thus definitively concluded this commercial negotiation between the governments of the three countries. On 18 December, I will send the agreement to the Mexican Senate to be studied and approved. Therefore, this moment draws us closer to our intention of creating better options for the Mexican people and increasing the country's strength.

The agreement was borne of shared hopes, the hopes of three sovereign nations to establish a region where (?honest), orderly, and fair commercial exchange will prevail. A region—North America—where we can complement our productive capabilities and successfully compete with other regions and economies. In short, we hope to create more opportunities for our peoples. The agreement represents an important contribution to a world we want to open up to trade, investments, and the flow of technology. Therefore, it is compatible with the terms of the GATT Uruguay Round, and it is an appropriate framework for an international economy that will provide broader horizons for future generations.

After more than two and a half years of seriousness, responsibility, steadiness, hundreds of meetings, and the support and advice of Mexican sectors and groups, the agreement was negotiated. It is a good treaty; it is good for Mexico and also for our northern neighbors. Each country will contribute to the formation of this huge world market, and each will have the access and the opportunity to increase their competitiveness and that of the region as a whole, thus creating more jobs and well-being.

We are firmly supporting the expectations that will allow us to see and work long-term for our children and the children of our children.

The agreement respects the fundamental interests of each of the nations. For Mexico it was vital for the agreement to adhere to its Constitution, which was accomplished. NAFTA serves national interests and in the commercial field it offers us an additional path to pursue our development, growth, and creation of jobs. It contains clear and permanent rules that foster economic security; it establishes a gradual, orderly, and appropriate opening that is consistent with our relative level of growth in each of the sectors.

The United States and Canada will have broader markets and will open their markets earlier. This will allow various Mexican production sectors to become aware of gaps and have enough time to modernize their production processes and be able to compete more adequately.

The support of the majority of Mexicans to the treaty has decisively contributed to this moment. The opportunities that free trade will open to all Mexicans explain this attitude. As consumers, Mexicans will have access to better products. As producers, they will have access to a larger market, be able to produce at lower costs, and use better technology that better suits our circumstances. Our producers will be able to increase exports. As a country, and this is most important, there will be more jobs and better salaries for the Mexicans.

We are clearly aware of the fact that increased competition will mean new challenges—better products and increased efforts will be necessary—and more benefits, because there will be a trade order between the three nations.

Enterprises, workers, peasants, service personnel—everybody—will have to renew their commitment to work harder, to produce more and better products, and be ready to compete and take advantage of the benefits the treaty offers.

The unity of the Mexicans was an essential element that allowed us to negotiate adequately. This unity will now serve as the engine of the effort we must make to march forward. I want to reiterate something I have said before: The treaty is an important tool of our modernization strategy.

Other trade windows have been opened to the south—to Latin America—and to the east—to Europe—and to the West—to the Asian Pacific. We are diversifying our trade relations. Our growth-without-inflation policy, which is also firmly committed to justice and against poverty, exists independent from the treaty. It will remain this way.

We have decided to fight contamination and the deterioration of nature and to prevent those who contaminate environments from taking advantage of the treaty to come to Mexico.

We are going to protect the labor rights of all Mexican workers so their productivity, income, and well-being will gain international recognition.

We should give the treaty the significance it justly deserves and realize it will not resolve all our problems and its rewards will not be immediate.

The benefits we receive will depend on our efforts and will be enjoyed with time. This is the opportunity, and it is also the great challenge. We are accompanied in this event by the governors of the country. I respectfully invite you all to spearhead the great productive task from your respective states. I invite you to encourage investments, promote exports, and foster training programs. I also urge you to prepare your states to take full advantage of Mexico's new position in the international context, and for the national economic recovery to have a balanced regional impact. I call on the labor congress to

promote agreements with the private business sector and to continue defending workers rights to ensure the benefits of the agreement reach every labor union member and every Mexican worker.

To the business sector, I urge you all to spread and build the mechanisms that will enable all businesses—especially the small- and medium-sized ones—to be able to implement the structural changes to enable us to live in an environment of competition.

To the farmers and their respective organizations, I call on you to take the necessary steps to incorporate the ever growing rural population into the productivity renewal efforts, and most of all, to improve the quality of life in the rural area.

I thank all my advisers, experts, treaty writers, lawyers, each and every one of the negotiators for their great, patriotic, and involved effort, which has now concluded. Now, I call on all of you to renew your enthusiasm in order to forge ahead [words indistinct]. What we have been able to accomplish in our country, as well as during the negotiations, has been possible because we are a united people, and a nation with a culture that is more than 3,000 years old. In addition we have confidence in the future. We offer the world our potential, our talent, and our willpower. In doing this, I reaffirm we will remain a sovereign nation. Our greatest pride is being an independent and free country. To preserve this nation, we are building the path toward a better and stronger Mexico. A Mexico worthy of its great past and dedicated to ensure a better future for our children. Mexico will forge ahead. Thank you.

Costa Rica

Calderon Said 'Annoyed' Over U.S. Blocking Funds

PA1612223392 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The president became annoyed because the United States has blocked $350 million. The bad thing about Calderon is that he does not respond in kind. Costa Rica should present charges before international organizations and argue in the United Nations that this sort of attitude by Mr. Bush's Republican government cannot be accepted at this moment. The fact of the matter is that Santa Rosa Park is an ecological reserve and the U.S. public must be made aware of this act of aggression by President Bush's government.

Costa Rica's attitude has been too weak in the face of such a serious event, where international solidarity is necessary.

El Salvador

FMLN Celebrates 'National Reconciliation Day'

Delivers Message to People

PA1712151792 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 Dec 92 p 105

[Message issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, to the Salvadoran people on the occasion of National Reconciliation Day, in El Salvador on 15 December]

[Text] With our hopes set on a future of peace and democracy on 15 December 1992, we Salvadorans celebrate "The Day of National Reconciliation" marking the end of 12 years of civil war, which were the result of social injustice, lack of freedom, and human rights violations.

On this historical date, we remember with emotion and gratitude all of those patriots—men, women, and children—who offered their lives, and those who endured prison, torture, and banishment so the democratic ideals contained in the Peace Agreements could become realities.

This day, 15 December 1992, will be commemorated as the symbolic date of national reconciliation. National reconciliation is an expression of the movement toward democracy our society is experiencing. It represents the legitimate and historical aspirations of the Salvadoran nation.

The implementation of the Peace Agreements initiates a process of democratization, demilitarization, a more just distribution of land, a creation of a new public security force, as well as constitutional and juridical reforms that will make national development and a dignified life for the people possible.

A Democratic Revolution for the Consolidation of Peace and National Reconstruction

The armed conflict has ended. Nonetheless, the economy in El Salvador is geared in such a manner that it continues to benefit just a few, generating poverty among the majority and destroying our environment. The groups holding economic power have yet to devise a feasible national project that will consider the interests of the entire society. Under these conditions, a democratic revolution on the move is the alternative for overcoming the crisis. It is necessary to continue along the path that has begun with the implementation of the Peace Agreements. Within this framework, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] plans to confront, with the entire nation, the following historical tasks:

I. To democratize the economy by assigning priority to social investment.

A favorable framework is being created for preparing a new economic model that will generate sustainable development and will ensure a just distribution of wealth. To that effect, social investment (health, education, housing, and social services) should be assigned priority, guiding it to generate conditions so the grass roots sectors will play an active role in development. That is our greatest challenge.

Improvements to agrarian reform are particularly important, achieving the continuity of the process of the redistribution of land and reorganizing the credit policies for the benefit of the farm workers.

The mini-, small- and medium- enterprises should be incorporated into the financial system and participate in the definition of credit policies with views to their growth.

The strategy of economic and social development El Salvador needs should be based on a dialogue, on the search for national unity, and on the flexibility and opening toward the contribution of the various sectors of society. To that effect, the role of the market, the state, and the social sectors of the economy should be defined.

II. To consolidate the new democratic institutionality of the state of law.

We support the construction of a democratic, civic state that will represent the general interest of society and not only the interests of a small, economically powerful group.

The state should ensure the Armed Forces truly take on a new civic and democratic doctrine that will respect human rights and will become professional.

The creation of the National Civilian Police at the service of the entire Salvadoran society should be a priority task.

The means to attain power in the Republic should be by electoral means. Any political party of any ideology should be able to attain power, as long as it is freely

elected by the people. For this, it is particularly important to implement a reform of the electoral system to ensure honest elections.

The institutions for the defense of human rights should be strengthened, and a thorough reform of the judicial system is necessary for the effective administration of justice and to end all forms of impunity and corruption.

The state should regulate the economy for the benefit of the grass roots sectors, who have been traditionally set aside and who should now become agents for national economic development.

Its administrative apparatus should comply with its social function in an agile and efficient manner. It should improve its administrative organization and make best use of the economic and human resources to prevent waste.

Administrative and political corruption should be fought without truce. Government officials should serve society and not use society to amass great fortunes. The era of corruption and illegal enrichment should definitely come to an end.

The state is obliged to offer protection, education, and medical assistance to the family, particularly to the children.

Laws should be issued and programs should be adopted that will defend and promote the economic, social, and political rights of women and their overall development. The transformation of the current municipal and party system, which is corrupt and inefficient, should be changed into a democratic, participative, pluralist system at the service of the people. This is a central task for the consolidation of democracy and development in our country.

III. To build a democratic culture for peace.

Culture and education are fundamental to the consolidation of democracy and development. It is not possible to change the structures of the economy and political power without changing society's attitudes and mentality. After a decade of armed confrontation, one of the fundamental dimensions of society's reconstruction is the development of a culture that promotes democratic coexistence.

To this end, it is urgent to implement plans aimed at establishing dialogue and tolerance as fundamental values of social coexistence, and to universalize democratic practices. These efforts should meet the demands of the communities and society as a whole, with cultural programs for mass participation at the community, municipal, and national levels, and programmed events for specific groups (demobilized, displaced, refugees).

The rehabilitation of the basic school infrastructure should be complemented by including materials in educational programs that will generate attitudes in keeping with the new phase the country is undergoing.

It is also essential to promote and to encourage artistic-cultural practices for the recovery and strengthening of national values, and the incorporation of new forms of expression and creativity. Special attention should be paid to a strategy that will guide the cultural participation of youths and women.

The communications media monopoly must end and its use must be regulated, so the media can contribute to the exercise of freedom of expression and thought and to the dignity of the citizenry. To complement this, we should promote the creation of communications media directly linked to the needs of the communities.

IV. The recovery and protection of the environment.

The new model of development we will build in El Salvador should reverse the advanced process that is contaminating the environment. This process is the result of a concept of economic development that has impoverished the people and mercilessly destroyed our natural resources.

The recovery and preservation of the environment is a priority. We must especially control the rapid destruction caused by contamination and deforestation.

To recover and preserve the ecological balance is an essential condition for economic development and the survival of Salvadoran society.

The Consolidation of Peace and Democratic Transformation is the Entire Nation's Work

No political party and no social sector alone is capable of carrying out the profound democratic transformations that society demands for the consolidation of peace.

Development and social progress is the work of all Salvadorans. It requires the joint effort of the state, civil society, private sector, workers, political parties, popular organizations, democratic soldiers, and churches.

The participation and consensus of all Salvadorans is the only path by which to build a democratic, independent, sovereign, and socially just fatherland.

The historic effort in which some Salvadoran people took up weapons to pursue the possibility of change in an essentially unjust and antidemocratic society has concluded.

This effort was possible thanks to the sacrifice of peace-loving Salvadorans and thanks to the international community's valuable cooperation. The many social, popular, union, cooperative, peasant, community, student, humanitarian, church, intellectual, professional, business, and patriotic organizations did their very best for this effort.

It is fair to pay homage to the thousands of FMLN fighters, chiefs, rank and file, and collaborators whose unlimited love for the people led them to write a heroic and victorious chapter in the struggle for national liberation.

We say to all of the people: The struggle for transformation continues. Our mission will not be fulfilled as long as social injustice exists and as long as our country lacks full democracy.

We publicly acknowledge former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his special representative Alvaro De Soto, without whose mediation the successful culmination of the negotiations with the Chapultepec Agreements would not have been possible. We also acknowledge the current UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali, his special envoys, and UN Observers for El Salvador, without whose efforts it would not have been possible to celebrate this Day of National Reconciliation. We are profoundly grateful for the solidarity of the governments and peoples of the world, whose contributions were decisive in the achievement of peace and democracy in El Salvador.

For the democratic revolution and the consolidation of peace, one step forward.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front
[Issued] El Salvador, 15 December 1992.

Leaders Evaluate Peace Process, Future

PA1612195192 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Report by Milton Grimaldi]

[Text] Members of the Political Directorate of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, evaluated the peace process in El Salvador on the morning of 15 December. A few minutes before attending the official ceremony declaring the end of more than 12 years of war, members of the FMLN General Command stressed the importance of this date.

Joaquin Villalobos said this date is the culmination of a chapter in the peace process: the cease-fire chapter. He added that despite the flaws in the process and the government's noncompliance with the agreements, the country has experienced significant transformations since April 1991.

[Begin Villalobos recording] The country has gone through one of the most extraordinary phases of change in its history. You have witnessed how this change has taken place despite the difficulties, in a climate of stability, a climate that has established the new rules of the game for our struggle. As I said, we have faced difficulties in making changes in our country, great difficulties such as delays in the plan for the land transfer. We have faced difficulties stemming from the political backwardness of those who do not admit the need for change in our country, who do not realize that we must all participate in this process. For example, on the night of 14 December there were still obstacles to the FMLN's legalization as a political party, a stipulation of the agreements, which stated that this should occur before the end of the cease-fire. [end recording]

Regarding compliance with agreements on the Army purge, the FMLN categorically denied any negotiation with the government to reach agreements on that issue. On 14 December, the Democratic Convergence, a leftist party, expressed its concern about possible negotiations between the FMLN and the government. Leonel Gonzalez of the FMLN Political Directorate denied those reports.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] During the past few weeks, the FMLN and the government have been holding talks with one purpose: To ensure a smooth transition to the next phase. We have discussed all the points in the agreements, mainly those that could affect stability during the next phase. In that regard, the land issue is particularly important to us, as it could create conflict situations. Likewise, the government is particularly concerned about the Armed Forces problem. The FMLN, however, is not negotiating outside the framework of the peace agreements. We believe those reports are somewhat irresponsible. Throughout this process, the FMLN has shown it has paid tribute to the blood shed by our combatants. We have acted responsibly and seriously in achieving our objectives and we will continue to do so. [end recording]

Asked what the FMLN will offer after 15 December, Leonel Gonzalez said the organization will be a factor that will contribute to the nation's stability.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We will be a factor in the country's development. To guarantee stability, the peace agreements must be consolidated. To achieve political stability, we must improve our political system. We have made possible reforms in the judicial and electoral systems. We hope the 1994 election will be a campaign in which political parties will really offer alternatives to solve the grave problems our country is facing, particularly the extreme poverty. [end recording]

Joaquin Villalobos said the past 10 months have been extraordinary. He added that according to the United Nations, the cease-fire was observed exemplarily and the FMLN helped maintain stability throughout the process.

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Comments

PA1712155992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Narcis Serra y Serra, deputy prime minister of Spain, reiterated on 16 December his trust in the political willingness of the parties and ruled out any possibility of the return to an armed confrontation in our country. Following his participation in the celebrations of the Day of National Reconciliation in our country, the Spanish deputy prime minister said he was convinced the parties involved do not want a return to the past. Regarding the possibility of reciprocal nonfulfillment by the parties involved, Serra y Serra said the process is now operating better than before.

[Begin Serra y Serra recording] I am convinced that since there have been difficulties since the signing of the Chapultepec Agreement, there might be difficulties in the future. Nonetheless, all the parties involved and the Salvadoran people have the political willingness to solve these difficulties. At any rate, the Spanish Government respects and supports the role of the institutions that are in charge of implementing the peace agreements, and it is at the service—as always—of the UN secretary general. [end recording]

He clearly established that in any event, the Spanish Government—as a friend of the UN secretary general—is determined to continue as part of the Support Group in the national reconstruction phase. The Spanish Government, he said, will intervene before the EC so that it will provide economic assistance to El Salvador.

[Begin Serra y Serra recording] Spain wants to participate actively so that the EC, with its mechanisms of cooperation, will contribute to the needs of El Salvador in the national reconstruction. [end recording]

Moreover, he ruled out for the time being that Spain will intervene in the 30-year conflict in Guatemala. Nonetheless, he said that if requested, Spain will contribute with any cooperation. Prior to leaving for Spain, the deputy prime minister said he trusts the work done by the organizations created as a result of the peace agreements. Therefore, he declined to make any statements on whether he was pleased or not with the final investigations of the Jesuit case.

Calderon Sol Welcomes FMLN as Political Party

PA1712175492 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], on 16 December welcomed the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] as a new political party and said that henceforth the group will have to struggle with ideas and not weapons.

Dr. Calderon Sol said that now that the phase of armed peace is over, armed groups of the ultraright and ultraleft cannot continue to take action. According to Calderon Sol, there is no room for those groups in the country's democratic process.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] I think any armed group that does not understand the war is over and any group that does not understand there is no room for violence in our society is way out of line. I think all Salvadorans should be in charge...[pauses] even the FMLN as a political party and a political institution, all of us are obliged to eliminate violence in El Salvador. That is the challenge we all have. I hope that will be the case. [end recording]

Calderon Sol also welcomed the FMLN as a political group. He said he was optimistic now that we have a peaceful left that will have to accept its political responsibilities.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] This has been a historic step in our country. We always said we wanted this group in the political struggle. We welcome the FMLN as a political party. We believed from the beginning this has been for Arena....[pauses] It was always said that votes are the most powerful weapon of free men. This has always been the struggle; that any dispute, any problem should be discussed among civilized human beings. I do not think there is any sense in violence and war. [end recording]

Zamora Says Agreements Should Not Change

PA1812134192 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Interview with Dr. Ruben Zamora, leader of Democratic Convergence, CD, by Walter Bardales; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bardales] Good morning Doctor.

[Zamora] Good morning, Walter. It is a pleasure to (?greet) you and talk with the Salvadoran people.

[Bardales] Thanks, Doctor. We have seen you in historic pictures in La Palma beside Guillermo Ungo and Duarte during peace talks. What happened? Why this dissatisfaction with (?some points)?

[Zamora] There is no dissatisfaction. We are concerned about the government insisting on modifying the list of 117 recommendations made to the Ad Hoc Commission, a decision that appeared serious to us. We pointed out in public that all 117 recommendations should be followed.

[Bardales] Who is making these modifications?

[Zamora] The government and the Armed Forces are trying to have the list of the 117 recommendations negotiated. Our stand is very clear, however. What must be negotiated is how the 117 recommendations will be applied. The recommendations themselves cannot be negotiated. We can also negotiate how the [words indistinct] battalion and the 12 percent of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] can be dismantled. But we cannot negotiate [words indistinct] because otherwise the entire FMLN force would have to be demobilized. Look at the difference. It is one thing to negotiate the form and quite another to negotiate the content. The contents cannot be negotiated because it is no longer the property of the government or the FMLN but of all of the Salvadoran people, who are committed to the peace process just as it was signed in Chapultepec.

[Bardales] The CD remarks on the eve of the peace ceremony were somewhat harsh, as were the top FMLN leaders' remarks the following day. Could this affect an alliance of leftist opposition forces, taking into consideration that we will have a new election campaign next year?

[Zamora] I do not think any alliance will be affected. We have only indicated our stand on the country's demilitarization. We pointed this out. We have not criticized the FMLN. We only said the government wants us to keep

silent. So we have asked the FMLN not to accept changes. Several FMLN commanders have said there will be no changes. In his 15 December speech, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali underlined the need to follow all recommendations. And the U.S. Vice President said all of the points should be followed to the letter. [Sentence indistinct] As the Salvadoran people say, there is no smoke without fire.

[Bardales] The empty chair at the meeting was yours?

[Zamora] No, the CD chair was occupied by Dr. Victor Valles, who is a CD member for the purposes of the peace talks. In the rotation at Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace], it was the MNR's [National Revolutionary Movement's] turn for two months.

[Bardales] Did you attend this meeting?

[Zamora] Of course. My words were reported by all television stations. People stood in line to enter. Mrs. (?Celia) is the government's military representative. The civilian representative had been the only one there. The government's military representative is the one who stays or leaves. This is why there was one empty chair. The CD chair was occupied by Valles, who is the CD representative at Copaz until the end of the month.

[Bardales] Although this seems very simple, it is very important. Many comments were made during and after the ceremony about the challenges confronting the political parties and the population in this new stage. What do you think will be the main stands and tasks of the Salvadoran nation and its political institutions?

[Zamora] Up until yesterday, we had defeated one of the great enemies of the Salvadoran people, the war among Salvadorans. I would say three great challenges still face the people, three great enemies must be defeated. The first one is poverty. All governments say they combat poverty but the poverty of the Salvadoran people grows every year. The way to defeat poverty is through steady development and permanent jobs for all Salvadorans.

The second challenge to be met is change. Instead of politics, we use violence and force as a primary resource for settling everything. If there is a conflict, the first idea that comes into the employer's mind is to fire workers. If there is a conflict, the first thing that occurs to the labor union is to declare a strike. When there are disagreements among politicians, the first thing they do is insult one another. This resorting to force and verbal or physical abuse must be overcome by introducing dialogue in our country.

The third great challenge we must meet is the problem of political and social instability in our country.

[Bardales] There is something very important, Dr. Zamora. Has there not been a clash between the political parties and forces and your remarks prior to the celebration of National Reconciliation Day?

[Zamora] No, quite the opposite is true. What we must favor first of all is the peace accords. There is the risk that the essential points can be negotiated, something we must report, the same as we reported the state security issue when the immediate reaction battalions were being dismantled but at the same time their members were being incorporated into the police. This is the type of thing all of us Salvadorans have to do. [Sentence indistinct] The nongovernmental Human Rights Commission, paper ads, and many social organizations have been pointing out the need for demilitarization and complying fully with the 117 recommendations. This is part of the civilian society's concern that things be done right.

[Bardales] Is CD concerned over the possibility of negotiating points dealing with some top military officers? Who are the officers involved?

[Zamora] I do not know the exact names on the list. All I know is that there has been the intention to do this. Now that CD, the nongovernmental human rights commission, and the social organizations have pointed out several points, things are much clearer. There have been several remarks, even by the president, that such an issue will not be negotiated. We think this stand contributes to setting this risk further. I would say, however, that we all should be on the alert and together in the stand that the contents of what was signed should not be negotiated.

[Bardales] Thank you, Dr. Zamora.

URNG Leader Denies Receiving Arms From FMLN

PA1812041092 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] denied in El Salvador on 16 December that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] supplied arms to the URNG, as Manuel Conde Orellana, head of the negotiating commission in Jorge Serrano Elias' government, said on 15 December.

Miguel Sandoval, member of the URNG Political and Diplomatic Commission and the Negotiating Commission, told the Salvadoran media that Conde Orellana's remarks are only a smokescreen to conceal the arms buildup of the Guatemalan Armed Forces.

[Begin Sandoval recording] I wish to refute flatly that the FMLN has been supplying weapons to the URNG. Conde Orellana's remarks are a smokescreen to conceal the declared weapons buildup of the Guatemalan Armed Forces. We regard these remarks as a marked lack of political tact considering the United Nations witnessed the destruction of the FMLN arsenal. Conde Orellana's remarks only succeed in casting doubts on the honor and political willingness of the FMLN. It is impossible to conceal the main problem in Guatemala: the lack of political willingness of the Army and government to advance toward a human rights and peace agreement by

influencing the negotiations that will make it possible to address (?our problems). [end recording]

Sandoval reiterated the URNG's willingness to negotiate with the Guatemalan Government, a process that started in 1990 and that has stagnated since August 1992 because of the government's refusal to solve the human rights problem. Since 1960, approximately 100,000 persons have been assassinated, 440 villages have been devastated and depopulated by the Army, more than 40,000 persons are missing for political reasons, 150,000 persons have sought refuge abroad—particularly in Mexico, and approximately 1 million have been displaced, according to the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference. URNG has demanded from the government specific steps to advance in the human rights issue.

[Begin Sandoval recording] The human rights issue is blocked by the government's resistance on three points. First, the government refuses to consider a general agreement. Second, the government opposes the immediate application of such an agreement. Third, the government refuses to allow for the immediate international verification of this agreement. The immediate application of a general agreement, verified by the United Nations, is the only true guarantee that human rights will be respected. So far, part of the problem in Guatemala is that the judicial branch is inoperative and the Army and security members act with impunity. Consequently, without international supervision, these practices would continue without any signs of improvement for the benefit of the population. The negotiating process in Guatemala must yield results and make it possible for the population to trust the process. This is possible only through a human rights agreement, enforced immediately and supervised by the United Nations. [end recording]

Sandoval praised UN Secretary General Butros Ghali's remarks, which were made during the celebration of the end of the armed conflict in El Salvador. Ghali said peace must spread through Central America, mainly in Guatemala. Finally, URNG confirmed the spirit and letter of the agreements signed in Oslo, Norway, and in Mexico City in 1991, and demanded human rights agreements to eliminate the cause of the conflict and provide true benefits for the Guatemalan people.

Guatemala

Minister on Weapons Contraband, Recent Arrests

PA1712162792 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 32

[Text] Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval stated that the civilian security forces are cracking down on contraband weapons moving from El Salvador to Guatemala. Evidence of such activities is the fact that AK-47 rifles similar to the ones used by the guerrillas have been seized.

Minister Perdomo was interviewed in the ministry's halls and asked whether or not the Salvadoran guerrillas were supplying weapons to Guatemalan insurgents. He replied: "Many weapons have been seized and strict controls have been implemented along the border. In addition, we have been able to deliver some positive blows".

The government minister said the operations would continue as it is the security forces' duty to ensure Guatemalans' safety.

Police To Obey Arrest Orders

Referring to the arrest orders issued two weeks ago by the Peten Justice of the Peace against three finance guards and several state employees following the attack and illegal arrest of newspaper reporter Omar Cano, Minister Perdomo said: "There were very few arrest orders in comparison to the number of people involved in the incident." He added that the police will serve the arrest warrants issued by the appropriate authorities regardless of whether the person is a Guatemalan or a foreigner. He said the investigations to uncover the responsible parties have yielded partial results.

Report on "Repression Commando" is False

According to Minister Perdomo, there are no commando units or premeditated repression plans against popular organizations or reporters. He added that from the moment he took office he has always thought of ensuring the citizens' safety, never of creating a repressive body, because that would not promote democracy.

Garcia Terms CPR Areas as 'Subversive Camps'

PA1812043092 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa stated the Defense Ministry received an invitation from the Multiparty Commission to visit the Communities of Resistant People (CRP) areas. What he found there, however, was a subversive camp.

He added that the Army will not deny them assistance, but it cannot take responsibility for what can happen, as the rebels' irresponsibility can be plainly seen. He added that during the operation, two soldiers were killed, while two officers and an unspecified number of soldiers were injured.

One can talk with them, but he added it was not the CRP they found, rather, they found subversive camps. What is even more serious, is that marijuana was found. He said, the rebels are seriously involved in drug trafficking.

The minister explained there are photographs of the area where the operation took place. Garcia Samayoa added the military operation continues because this is a difficult area where the rebels, especially the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, are involved.

Honduras

Government Authorizes FMLN Weapons Destruction

PA1712211992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Honduras has authorized the UN Observers for El Salvador, Onusal, to destroy a weapons cache, which the Salvadoran guerrillas have hidden on Honduran territory, the coming week, Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata has announced. Carias Zapata said the Onusal request was approved by Honduran President Rafael Callejas, who traveled to El Salvador on 15 December to attend the ceremony that ended the prolonged Salvadoran conflict. The foreign minister said he does not know the type or number of weapons that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has in Honduras. The guerrillas used Honduras as one of their supply lines in the 1980s.

It is expected that an Onusal mission, together with FMLN members, will visit Honduras in two or three weeks and supposedly the weapons will be destroyed on the spot where they are located, Carias Zapata stated.

The last Salvadoran guerrilla contingent was formally demilitarized on 15 December during an historic ceremony held in San Salvador attended by presidents and important dignitaries of international organizations.

Carias Says Trade With Cuba To Increase

PA1812031392 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—On 16 December, Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata reported that Honduras will expedite and increase commercial ties with Cuba in 1993, on condition it take the democratic path the rest of the American nations have taken.

"Cooperation and trade ties already exist with Cuba. Honduras has plans to expedite and increase those ties in 1993, if Cuba joins the existent American democracies. The contacts with Cuba will continue and will increase depending on its political stance," he stated.

The Foreign Ministry also plans to establish legal offices in all its consulates in the United States and Mexico. The measure was prompted by the death sentence given to Honduran Jose Roberto Villafuerte for murder and the ongoing homicide trial against Noel Alonso Mejia Sevilla.

Additionally, the foreign minister announced there will be two or three personnel changes in the foreign service in January 1993. He added, however, there would be no more personnel rotations as he is satisfied with the work done by his team. Carias Zapata refused to give the names of the ambassadors to be removed.

According to Carias, foreign policy was characterized by the territorial defense that ended with ruling on the border dispute with El Salvador by the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

He also reported that the two nation's demarcation commissions are already working in Ocotepque, Cayaguanca, Dolores, and at the outlet of River Goascoran.

In the pockets, he explained, the Honduran presence is being felt as retired Colonel Abraham Garcia Turcios is in Nahuaterique participating in the census task.

Carias Zapata said he was optimistic regarding the last meetings held by the EC as the majority of the nations are voting against the imposition of a quota on the importation of the Latin American bananas. Instead, a tariff would be applied whereby Honduras could export 2.4 million tons of this product to those markets.

Nicaragua

Sandinist Leader Calls For H. Ortega Removal

PA1712200692 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] In statements made on 15 December to a local daily, Edmundo Jarquin, a respected Sandinist leader, asked for General Humberto Ortega's resignation to [words indistinct] political polarization in the country. Several national politicians have been consulted on this proposal.

Edmundo Jarquin feels Gen. Ortega's continuation as army chief has contributed to polarization. He said he supported Ortega's stay following the elections and during the transition period, but it is now time for his resignation. Jarquin says it is not a matter of revenge but a result of democratic evolution. Several politicians were consulted on the matter.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Dario Manuel Lopez, leader of the Christian Democratic Union and member of the National Opposition Union] Yes, I agree, particularly since this proposal has been made by a person such as Edmundo Jarquin. I do not think it should be ignored. His statements reflect the people's clamor since 1990, which was part of the very strong tension between the president of the Republic and the coalition that took her to power.

[Bayardo Arce, member of the Sandinist leadership] To think that the Gen. Ortega's removal will solve the problems or that he is the cause of the polarization problems is a totally erroneous outlook that could only be conceived by someone who is totally disconnected to the country's real situation. [end recording]

These contrasting viewpoints show that Humberto Ortega is not in his post because he is a Sandinist but because the government has decided to keep him in his post in spite of any difficulties there might be in the Sandinist leadership. As the president has said on several occasions, Mr. Ortega will remain in his post until she decides to make a change.

[Begin Violeta Chamorro recording] Mr. Humberto Ortega will leave when I think it is necessary. It could be today, tomorrow, two days from now, or before 1996 when I end my term. [end recording]

Cardinal Reveals D. Ortega Plans To Vie for Power

PA1712215792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 pp 1, 20

[Article by Fidelina Suarez M.]

[Text] Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], admitted to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo last year his intentions to vie for power through the National Assembly if President Violeta Chamorro does not honor her commitments.

In what the Nicaraguan prelate called "a long talk," Ortega disclosed this to the cardinal so that he could in turn convey it to Nicaraguan politicians.

Obando's revelations were reported the night of 15 December on a television newscast and LA PRENSA confirmed them the morning of 16 December through a telephone call. "I believe that if [former] President Ortega told me, it is not a secret that could not be revealed," the cardinal said.

He did not disclose the date of the talks, in which the Sandinist leader complained to the spiritual guide about Nicaraguans and about the property problem, and called them "time bombs."

"In the talks I held with Mr. Ortega, he told me they could take over power if the president did not honor her commitments and that they were working in Congress to get one of their people appointed," he said.

"You could tell that to the politicians, Ortega told me then," according to the cardinal, who added that the Sandinist leader was concerned about the application of certain decrees, which were apparently hurting Sandinist interests.

Ortega insisted then that the problem of the owners of confiscated property was a "time bomb," a statement which coincides with the actions of the Sandinists in provoking a crisis in the country every time their opportunities to completely legalize the "Sandinist pinata-like giveaway," are closed off.

Police Investigating New Paramilitary Group

PA1812042092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 1,12

[Report by Elisa Maturana]

[Text] The National Police are on the trail of a new "civic-political-military" organization that calls itself the Patriotic Opposition Unity (UPO), a sort of rightist counterpart to the Leftist Punitive Forces (FPI). The UPO has declared itself linked to the National Opposition Union [UNO].

Government Ministry sources confirmed to BARRICADA that on 11 December two unknown men proceeded to distribute the first and only leaflets on the organization at the conclusion of a mass in memory of Arges Sequeira at the El Carmen church in Managua.

This newspaper was able to obtain a leaflet. In the leaflet the organization calls on all Nicaraguans to join the "urban guerrilla struggle" to achieve "liberty, democracy, compliance with the original UNO plan, and to end poverty and unemployment, as well as to end the organized crime by the defeated Sandinist National Liberation Front."

The UPO describe themselves as the "nerve" of UNO, as well as the National Salvation Democratic Forces "that are battling in the mountains against General Humberto Ortega's soldiers."

In the leaflet, there is a blurred symbol of a hand with the thumb pointing upward—referring to the number one—surrounded by the words God, Country, and Liberty.

BARRICADA sources, who requested not to be identified, disclosed they did not have any more information related to the organization. They also said they had not been taken by surprise because "it was expected that sooner or later one of those rightist punitive forces would appear."

The sources also stated the authorities are "concerned" about the appearance of this organization, as well as others that have started to flourish during the past weeks as a consequence of the political disputes and the growing economic crisis that plague the country.

Another Who Talks About 'Executions'

On 25 November, another new clandestine organization called Organization for Justice Against Opportunists (ORICO) proceeded to distribute leaflets in the central Jinotega plaza, as well as threaten to execute corrupt "elements" of the former and new government.

This group, according to the leaflets, is made up of former members of the Nicaraaguan Resistance, former Sandinist People's Army members, former Interior Ministry members, and also Sandinists who describe themselves as fighters for honesty "regardless of ideological distinctions."

In addition, ORICO also threatened "from somewhere in Nicaragua" to "win over" more sympathizers. "There are already" more honest members "of the Armed Forces and the different political sectors" who will be in charge of pointing out those victims to be executed "once they have been confirmed."

H. Ortega Documents View U.S. Ties, Chamorro

PA1812144192 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] A heretofore "secret" document dated December 1989, which appears in the book Nicaragua, Revolution, and Democracy by General Humberto Ortega, outlines his views on ways to improve relations with the U.S. Government over the short term.

In another unpublished document, the chief of the Sandinist People's Army maintains that President Violeta Barrios Chamorro does not deny the Sandinist revolution but rather opposes the return of Somozism.

In 1989, the general expressed the need to create local conditions "that will make it possible to initiate a short-term process of understanding and settlement with the Bush administration, and to improve Nicaragua's position regarding Honduras, taking advantage of the fact that the Honduran Government has expressed differences with the United States.

Ortega had planned to "normalize diplomatic relations with the U.S. Embassy in Managua on 21 January (1990).

Presented at the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, Mexico, the book is a compilation of speeches, expositions, public statements, news conferences, interviews with national and foreign reporters, a communique, a public letter, and two unpublished documents.

In the document titled State of Strategy in December 1989, Ortega said that "it is imperative to immediately stop the war" and implement a plan to reduce inflation and a program for the gradual reactivation of production.

Curiously, the document discloses that Gen. Ortega did not want to continue negotiating with the contras; he wanted to hold elections.

At that time Ortega was also engaged in economic considerations which, curiously, were rather similar to aspects of the plan the government currently is executing.

Among the "actions proposed" was a concerted national effort for production, which included the proclamation of a mixed economy law, limits on expropriations, agreements for secondary and sectoral production, and the suspension of media censorship.

In the other unpublished document, One Year After the Elections, Nicaragua Is on the Right Path, Ortega asserts that the Sandinist revolution's effort to guide Nicaragua on the path to democracy, a de jure system, dignity, and the defense of national sovereignty and self-determination, "is still being carried out" by forces he describes as "more advanced and reasonable."

Ortega stresses that President Violeta Barrios Chamorro's body of political concepts "does not deny the revolutionary trend, nor does it accept the return of Somozism."

Panama

First Vice President Arias Calderon Resigns

PA1712160992 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1515 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Statement by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon during a news conference at the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, headquarters in Panama City—live]

[Text] In a few days, we will commemorate the third anniversary of the end of the dictatorship. We are living in liberty, thank God. The Panamanian people, however, are deeply dissatisfied. As first vice president, I have made an effort to fulfill the duties of my government post. I was government minister for 15 months and worked hard, very hard, to eliminate the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and to create a new civil police.

After the president ousted the PDC from his government, because we insisted that there should be a response to the people's needs, I have continued to tour dozens of communities throughout the country, to learn of their problems and to hear their desires. In the same way, I have also visited Latin America, Europe, and the United States several times to advise friendly government leaders of our national reality. I have also raised before the international financial institutions the dramatic situation of the poorest sectors of the country.

I have carried out all of this work without the state paying any office or trip expenses. I have used only the salary that the Constitution and the law establishes. On noting the discontent of the people, I have demanded that the government make extensive rectifications, above all, in social, economic, and public morality aspects. These demands, however, have fallen on deaf ears.

The country has sunk progressively into a deep crisis of mistrust and dissatisfaction. We can all attest to this. The people have expressed it clearly. It demands a big change in course. The government, however, continues the same course, does not listen to the people and does not have the courage to make corrections. No matter how much I have insisted on the corrections, as first vice president I cannot get the government to make them. Many people do not understand this and come to me searching for solutions, which I am unable to provide as vice president.

Also, and this is very important to me, one cannot demand a big change in the country if one is not ready to give a personal testimony of solidarity. In this circumstance, out of loyalty to the people who elected me, and to contribute to rescuing the values for which we struggled, I have decided to tender my resignation from the post of vice president. [applause, cheers]

According to the terms established by the Constitution, I hope the Legislative Assembly will accept it without delay. At any rate and until it is accepted, I will donate

my salary to Caritas [Catholic relief agency] to be spent on projects to help the neediest children. [applause]

I will return to my post as Panama University professor as soon as possible. That is my profession. [applause] My resignation will make it very clear I am not a member of the government. With complete freedom and without any confusion, I will be able to fight thus as president of the PDC.

In this manner, in complete freedom and without any confusion, I will be able to struggle as president of the PDC, not alone, but with all of those persons, groups, and parties that wish to promote a national project of profound change in democracy. The struggle for this change is to confront unemployment and poverty, which are affecting our people. It is to fight corruption and to make justice effective. It is to prepare ourselves to Panamanianize fully our canal—the great task that is pending. Panama needs this change urgently.

I am sure that if many Panamanians do their part, together we can rescue our future. Thank you very much. [applause]

President Endara Comments

PA1812010792 Panama City Radio Soberana Civilista in Spanish 2039 GMT 17 Dec 92

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara with unidentified reporters at the Presidential Press Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Endara] The reason I interrupted the reception is due to the shock I received when I was informed of Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon's resignation as first vice president of the Republic.

I would like to express my opinion on this issue. I believe this is basically a political circus. This is strictly demagoguery. He is merely starting his 1994 political campaign ahead of time, and what he has done is simply political buffoonery.

He stresses that he had been calling on the government to implement appropriate measures, but no one paid any attention to his suggestions. He also says his proposals fell on deaf ears. Where was he speaking? He spoke to the newspapers, the radio, and television. He had many opportunities. If he was interested in being heard, he had the best opportunity. He had the right and the obligation to participate in the weekly cabinet ministers meeting. Everyone knows quite well the cabinet meets every week. On certain occasions, there are even more than one meeting each week. All decisions are made during these meetings. All important and far reaching decisions are made at the cabinet meetings. He could have participated and made his recommendations, he could have protested, he could have said anything he wanted to say. He could have done it because it was his right, as well as his duty. Instead, he chose not to participate. During all this time, from 8 April 1991 until now, his seat at the cabinet council has been vacant. I have insisted that it remain vacant in case he decided to return. He decided not to return. That was his opportunity to participate and express his opinion on every significant decision made by the government. However, he did not do it. Now he simply uses the changes as an excuse to say no one listened to him. He did not even speak up. It is impossible to hear what goes unsaid.

On the other hand, and as further proof of his demagoguery, he says his salary as vice president will be donated to Caritas [International Confederation of Catholic Organizations for Charitable and Social Actions]. Everyone knows quite well, even he knows, that his resignation will be accepted. Why? Because his own legislators, following his instructions, insisted that the National Assembly Credential Commission should meet immediately. They all attended the commission meeting, and they immediately accepted his resignation. The National Assembly will be in session in a few minutes and they will accept his resignation. Then what is Caritas going to receive? Come on! The Panamanian people deserve more respect. They do not deserve any demagoguery dribble [baba demagogica] as he is giving them by saying that he plans to donate his salary to Caritas. That is not going to be the case. What is he going to give them? Three, maybe four hours worth of salary?

He also says he plans to withdraw from the government, that is, the first vice presidency, to join other groups to reconstruct the country. Who is going to listen to his suggestions? You are all aware he was part of the government for 15 months. You also know he was the most influential person in the government. You also know that during those 15 months I practically never said no to any of his demands. He was a very powerful person during that time period. I am very aware that I was heavily criticized during those 15 months. It was said I was a princess, and Ricardo Arias Calderon really gave the orders.

You know how I am and not even I could stand him. How is anybody else going to stand him? [laughter in the audience]

What is he? He is a [word indistinct]. If he really wanted to donate $5,000 to Caritas, he could have done this on 8 April. He could have said: I am going to give $5,000 I have coming to Caritas.

If he wanted to be in the opposition, and he had said he wanted to be in the opposition, why did not he resign on 8 April? Why now, after so many months? This is plain demagoguery. This is what I have to say about this.

[Reporter] Mr. President, did you deliver cabinet documents to him during all this time?

[Endara] No. Documents are delivered to members of the cabinet. The documents remain with the cabinet. However, he knew the cabinet unfailingly meets every Wednesday at 1300. He knew this perfectly well. He was a minister for 15 months. He knew the meetings took

place on Wednesday. If my memory does not fail me, it was him, when he was government and justice minister, who set Wednesday afternoon as the day for the cabinet meetings. What is this about invitations? I do not invite any minister to the cabinet meetings and they all attend every Wednesday.

[Reporter] What are the legal repercussions of this situation?

[Endara] The only legal repercussion is that Billy Ford will now become first vice president.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you have said that Mr. Ford [words indistinct].

[Endara] I believe, and I am speaking now more as an attorney than as the president, I believe that with the resignation of Ricardo Arias Calderon and with the acceptance of this resignation by the Legislative Assembly, the legal consequence of this resignation is that Billy Ford, who is second vice president becomes first vice president. I am saying this as an attorney, not as president.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Endara] No. To be able to run for president, any aspirant must not have held any post of authority or control in the three months prior to the elections. I understand there is a draft calling for extending this period to six months. I agree with this. Vice presidents have no authority or control. Ministers, state institution officials, governors and other such people, officials who have authority over others, would have to resign in November or December 1993. The post of vice president did not prevent Arias Calderon from becoming a presidential candidate.

For example, supposedly, Guillermo Ford will be, I am sure, vice president until 31 August 1994. He may aspire to the post of president of the country, like any other Panamanian. His vice presidency post is no obstacle to him doing that. I am speaking as an attorney again, not as president.

[Reporter] Could this resignation coincide with [words indistinct] in the presidency?

[Endara] This does not change anything. This has been a strictly demagogic move. Nothing has changed. Everything remains the same. He just wanted to put on a show, a circus.

[Reporter] Do you think Arias Calderon's resignation could have some repercussions on [words indistinct]?

[Endara] He will just cease receiving $5,000. This is all that will happen. He was not functioning as vice president because he did not participate in cabinet meetings. This was his right and duty. This is a function and functions imply rights and obligations. He did not fulfill his functions.

He was invited to the summit meeting of vice presidents that took place one month before the summit meeting of presidents of Central America. I know this. He was invited to attend the meeting with Second Vice President Ford. He did not want to attend. He did not.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] I am going to confess that the decree has already been signed, and it was going to be made public today. Nevertheless, something came up, so we will do it on 21 December. On 21 December at 1000, we will make the official announcement, however, the decree has already been signed.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] who did the vice president refer to [words indistinct]?

[Endara] He does not specify. He mentions persons, groups, movements, parties [words indistinct]. I presume he is making reference to the groups such as Tommy Herrera....[pauses] in my opinion....[pauses] [words indistinct] when he refers to those groups. I do not know, you will have to ask him.

[Reporter] Mr. President: Does this mean any government official who resigns can endorse his salary to another person? The EC has just approved the ruling on the import of bananas. Does this favor Latin America?

[Endara] I prefer not to comment on this subject, as I only saw a news dispatch. I am trying to get more information, therefore, I prefer not to make any statements on this subject.

Now, on the other matter, the government official who resigns cannot endorse his salary, he cannot [word indistinct] his salary. It was a totally different story when he was receiving his $5,000 monthly salary. If at that time he had taken his check and endorsed it to Caritas, that would have made sense. What is he going to endorse to Caritas? A salary for two or three hours of work?

[Reporter] Mr. President: [words indistinct] Arias Calderon [words indistinct] Legislative Assembly?

[Endara] What did you say?

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Legislative Assembly?

[Endara] It is a fact the Christian Democrats have voted against all my proposals. What difference will this make? This action is strictly political demagogy, this is a mockery.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Endara] That position will remain vacant.

[Reporter) [question indistinct]?

[Endara] No. There is one detail he forgot to mention. He is not truly resigning the second vice presidency, sorry ....[pauses] the first vice presidency. He is resigning

a mandate granted to him by the people. The Panamanian people went to the polls on 7 May and elected him to be the first vice president of the Republic. He is resigning that mandate. I had not mentioned that before.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct] Mr. Hinton [words indistinct] as a diplomat [words indistinct]?

[Endara] About one hour ago I was sent a copy of Mr. Hinton's speech that he gave two nights ago. I think it was at [words indistinct]. I cannot give my opinion on something I have no knowledge of. I am going to read it and if I have anything to say, I will gladly say it.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Endara] Up until now, I believe Mr. Hinton has been very respectful regarding Panama's sovereignty, he has not interfered. As far as I am concerned, I have never felt that he has interfered in matters that I am dealing with.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] the Foreign Relations Ministry has called Mr. Hinton's attention on certain occasions?

[Endara] I have no recollection of that.

[Unidentified moderator] This news conference has ended. Thank you for your participation.

Guillermo Ford Comments

PA1812024492 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford stated he will remain in the government until the end of the constitutional term. Ford offered the following statements regarding the resignation of Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon as first vice president of the Republic.

[Begin recording] [Ford] First of all, I respect decisions adopted by any person in this world, particularly regarding the resignation tendered by Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon.

In the second place, constitutionally speaking, the honorable National Legislative Assembly has to evaluate the resignation. I am not going to make any observations related to Dr. Calderon's decision because, as I said before, I respect it.

[Unidentified reporter] Considering Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon's international image and the instability his resignation could create, in what way will this decision affect the government's economic plans?

[Ford] I do not believe it is going to cause any instability, domestically or internationally, for a very simple reason. Dr. Arias Calderon had already described himself as an opposition leader. I also respect that position. Therefore, I do not believe this decision should come as such a surprise that it should negatively affect anything, as he had already declared himself to be part of the opposition.

[Reporter] Personally, how does it affect your future plans. According to information we have received, you also have presidential designs for the 1994 elections.

[Ford] I am not going to talk about 1994 at this time. I believe it is still premature to talk about that issue. I do believe that during 1993 we should all work hard. Therefore, that decision does not affect my plans. I will continue exercising my duties as vice president of the Republic and I will continue supporting President Endara in his constitutional mandate. In addition, I will not vary my style or my conduct. I plan to forge ahead exactly as I have always done; with the truth and until the end of the constitutional term. [end recording]

National Assembly Accepts Resignation

PA1812012292 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Alvaro Alvarado]

[Text] A few minutes ago, the National Assembly accepted the resignation of Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon as first vice president of the Republic.

At least 65 legislators were present in the assembly hall. Of the total number of legislators present, 64 accepted Dr. Calderon Arias' resignation. At any rate, there was still one abstention, and no votes against the resignation.

[Begin Liberal Party Legislator Arnulfo Escalona Rios recording] The National Assembly of Panama has just accepted the resignation tendered by Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon. From this moment on, we no longer have a first vice president of the Republic as personified by Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon. Second Vice President Guillermo Ford now occupies the position of first vice president of the Republic. [end recording]

With this decision, the position of second vice president is now vacant. In the eventuality President Guillermo Endara is forced to be absent from the country for the time period established by law, Vice President Guillermo Ford will be in charge.

SAN Director Asks for Aid to Combat Drugs

PA1712155892 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2144 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Panama, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panama has few resources to combat drug trafficking coming in by air, Major Santiago Fundora, director of the National Air Service (SAN), has said. Fundora urged the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Japan to give more support to the Panamanian authorities to combat drug trafficking.

The SAN director told ACAN-EFE that currently "there is no budget" earmarked to combat the illegal transportation of drugs that comes in through clandestine flights, mostly from South America.

Fundora pointed out that there is a budget only for "the regularly scheduled flights of our planes."

He added that the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Japan should help Panama, because they are the ones "more interested" in eliminating international drug trafficking.

Fundora said: "These nations that have the funds should help us." He requested they give Panama radar to efficiently combat drug trafficking.

So far this year, the authorities have seized on land more than 10 tons of cocaine; however, they have never been able to intercept a drug trafficker's aircraft, which is usually faster and more sophisticated than that of the SAN.

Fundora made these statements at the headquarters of the Government Ministry's National Committee for Analysis of Criminal Statistics (Comite National de Analisis de Estadistica Criminal, CONADEC), where the first report was issued on police incidents that took place in the Panamanian capital during the first quarter of 1991 and 1992.

The study found that in 1992, 3,877 crimes were recorded in the metropolitan area where over 1 million of the 2.5 million Panamanians live. There has been an 11 percent increase, compared to 1991 (3,493 crimes).

According to the document, the most common crimes are burglary (43.5 percent) and theft (23 percent).

This year, car theft was increased by 123.3 percent with regard to the same quarter of 1991.

The report also reported that in this period the total economic cost of victims' losses resulting from criminal activities rose to $11.6 million. This figure is much higher than in 1991 when a $5.8 million loss was registered.

The report also indicated that in 1992, the businesses in the capital were the most victimized by the criminals.

During the presentation of the CONADEC report, Elsa Mendez de Garcia, director of the Juvenile Delinquents Court, expressed her concern due to the high level of minors with drug abuse problems.

"This is part of the nation's poverty problem," (that affects over half of the population), the judiciary authority said. She said in Panama "there are many people who have been forsaken."

Mendez Garcia requested that the government collect all the weapons that criminals acquired in the wake of the U.S. invasion to Panama in December 1989, saying they are used for lawbreaking, even by minors.

'Undercover Operation' Reveals Drug Network

PA1712153492 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 1a

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] An undercover operation organized by the authorities revealed that custom agents, policemen, alleged members of the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] party, and even local businessmen could be involved in a large-scale drug trafficking network operating in the Provinces of Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui.

The investigation, which was code named "Operation Stone Quarry" [Operacion Cantera] was organized by the First Higher District Attorney's Office of the Third Judicial District based in David. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA gained access to information revealing that government officials were suspected of using and trafficking cocaine and marijuana.

According to reports gathered during Operation Stone Quarry, the drug is sold locally to oil tanker crews, and occasionally it is transported to Costa Rica by way of Chiriqui Grande, Guabito, and Rambala. It is believed that there are marijuana plantations throughout these regions.

Operation Stone Quarry also revealed that drugs are sent from Veraguas by way of Camino de Fortuna using taxis that circulate between midnight and 1700 for buyers aboard the Baltimore Trader, Texas Sur, Overseas Ohio, MTC Zantoria, Overseas New York, Potomoc Trader, and the Coastal Eagle Point.

Likewise, it was also disclosed that another route to introduce Colombian drugs is through Escudo de Veraguas island, passing through the Province of Chiriqui, and the district of Chitre in Herrera where a similar undercover operation currently is under way.

The Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui operation revealed that several persons suspected and under investigation include a former Army captain nicknamed Qadhdhafi, former sergeant Mechi Blanco, and three men with the names "Chavez, Lee, Ochy".

Other persons currently under investigation answer to the nicknames of Micho Gordo, Santos Fajardo, Penita, Tribilin, Fuerza Bruta, Boca, as well as a preacher allegedly condemned in 1983 for burning an Indian and linked to Molirena.

According to Operation Stone Quarry, several important judicial and police officials are aware of the drug trafficking activities taking place in Bocas del Toro, but have avoided getting involved in the issue fearing reprisals as well as pressure from higher levels.

The Las Rocas Bar in Chiriqui Grande and an unspecified number of Colombian nationals are included in the list of suspects participating in this narco-mafia network.

Relatives of Invasion Casualties Issue Communique

PA1712211192 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Dec 92 pA2

[Communique issued by the National Congress of Relatives of the 20 December Victims in Panama City on 15 December]

[Text] First Great National Congress of Relatives of the 20 December 1989 Victims.

Topic: Three years after the U.S. invasion and occupation of Panama. (How did it affect Panamanians' activities?)

Stance of the relatives of the victims of 20 December.

We, the relatives of the heroes and martyrs of 20 December, believe it is our duty to make known some of the points we have found on the third anniversary of the nefarious U.S. invasion of Panama, an event for which the Panamanian Government has yet to recognize the inalienable rights of our fellow countrymen, some of whom are now unprotected, wounded, or handicapped. We must understand the efforts conducted through all the legal suits filed by our organization to receive the payment, compensation, or retribution to which we are entitled. This situation says a great deal about what happens when just demands are made in a society whose government dares to call itself "democratic." So far we have been patient regarding the actions and omissions of the judicial branch authorities regarding every petition we have filed, but a response has not been forthcoming.

We ask: Are those killed on 20 December 1989 worth the same as a piece of real estate? Should the ones demanding justice and freedom be condemned today? Must they bear the mark of dishonor of those who did nothing against the ill-named "Just Cause."

Time proves we are right in continuing our marches, vigils, and picketing to reach an understanding in national harmony. It must be understood that the patience of our organization is reaching its limit because THERE IS NO JUST CAUSE TO JUSTIFY THE SUBJUGATION OF OUR PEOPLE, NOR IS THERE A DIGNIFIED PANAMANIAN WHO ACCEPTS THIS HUMILIATING SITUATION.

For that reason, it is shameful, disloyal, and unpatriotic for the Panamanian Government not to have filed any suit against the United States Government as it makes clear its lack of interest and careless attitude regarding the rights of our victims and the goods looted in our various businesses. The Panamanian Government is aware of the current state of our economy and of the challenge ahead to lay the foundations for the appropriate process of national reconciliation and reconstruction.

We thus define our stance, making an appeal to those who do not listen and want to drive us like sheep into an abyss or on the path of discredit, something that can be seen in a fatherland occupied and humiliated by the invader's boots.

We are determined not to give up our struggle and call on all civic, civilian, social, and political organizations to make a profound analysis of where we are and where are we headed, whether we want to be a colony or a free, democratic, and sovereign fatherland; whether we want to be a commonwealth dependent on the interests of those who are harassing us and to jeopardize our status as a nation and therefore as free citizens of the world. We are proposing:
a) Setting aside our personal interests for the sake of real and honest national unity.
b) Recognizing the importance that every group has in the various areas of our country.
c) Pausing and strengthening the programs established for the sake of the common good.
d) Joining the efforts by the government, social organizations, and the people in general to reach a victory that may serve as an example. Everyone has the right and the freedom to express what he feels and to be treated accordingly.

"Respect for the rights of others is peace."

"To die for the fatherland is to live."

"To forget one's dead is to forget one's history; and to forget one's history is to not know what the fatherland is."

"There is no fatherland without history, as there is no history without those who died."

[Signed] President Isabel Corro
[Issued] Panama City 15 December 1992

Article Views U.S. Operations in Somalia

PA1712151592 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 27A

[By Betty Brannan Jaen]

[Excerpts] Washington—The U.S. military intervention in Somalia apparently will be George Bush's farewell gesture from the presidency. The U.S. people, pained by terrible television reports on the suffering of the Somali people, have expressed their support for their government's decision. Some political observers (U.S. as well as foreign) have said that the intervention violates international law and Somalia's sovereignty.

The invasion of Panama is often mentioned in those kinds of debates, always as an example of an evil intervention in contrast with the humanitarian intervention in Somalia. To cite just one example, Raymond Bonner wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES: "The use of combat troops for humanitarian purposes is preferred to and is much more honorable than the invasions of Grenada and Panama."

Such comments make it obvious how misunderstood the Panamanian tragedy is. It also shows how North Americans mistakenly view U.S. Government policies. What is really appalling is to notice the similarities rather than the contrasts between the crisis that exists there now and that which Panama endured.

In an interview with National Public Radio, Hibaaq Osman, a Somali who is one of the leaders of the Fund for Peace, angrily rejected the idea that the intervention in her country is illegitimate. [passage omitted]

No concept of sovereignty should hamper an intervention like this one. It is not that a humanitarian crisis is above sovereignty, as some have argued, but that sovereignty is something much more profound than territorial integrity and political autonomy, elements that only complement the essence of the concept: A nation's sovereignty dwells in its people and consists, as Thomas Jefferson said, in the people's inalienable right to life and liberty. Any force that violates that right is usurping the people's sovereignty, even if that force is domestic. Any force that acts to protect that right is bringing sovereignty back to whom it belongs, even if the force is foreign.

Attorney General, Legislators on Refinery

PA1712194692 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz on 15 December asserted that the contract with the Panama Refinery, which is undergoing a second debate in the Legislative Assembly, has clauses that are "harmful" to the state. He recommended that it be renegotiated. Contrary to this position, Arnulfist Party Legislator Francisco Artola asserted the pact "benefits" the country.

Cruz attended the Legislative Assembly plenary session where Bill No. 21, which furthers the approval of Contract No. 35 between the Government and Panama Refinery S.A. (Refripan), has been debated for the past nine working days.

In a 20-minute speech, Cruz made reference to contract clauses No. 39, 28, 35, 26, and 38 and said he believed they were detrimental to the country.

"Less important, perhaps, is clause No. 39 on the stamp tax. According to the law, the company has to pay $77,600 in taxes but the mentioned clause stipulates that the firm will only pay $1,000," Cruz stated.

The attorney general said he believed the Cabinet should have objected to the clause because the difference in tax payments "goes against the National Treasury."

Meanwhile, Christian Democratic Party Legislator Jose Sossa said Cruz' statements ratified that the contract is unfavorable.

Sossa asserted the contract's first seven clauses do not meet the Constitutional norm that establishes that other government officials, such as the attorney general of the republic, have to issue a prior opinion.

"I have to say that if this contact is approved we will be approving a pact that allows Refipan to carry out transactions far beyond oil-related matters."

Refipan has not had to pay more than $150 million due to tax exemptions that date back 35 years, he added.

Arnulfist Legislator Francisco Artola stated: "We regret some legislators, in their desire to convince and impress, have gone a bit overboard and have even slighted their colleagues. This, of course, leaves much to be desired."

Artola said the contract's first nine clauses ensure oil production and investments for $77.6 million in Colon.

"We have to take into consideration the firms that have shown they can produce efficiently. The contract may not be perfect but it has points that will encourage foreign investors to come to Panama," he added.

"The contract is good for the country because it will ensure that we have a quality product permanently, that Refipan will stay in Colon, and job security for the Colon residents who work at Refipan," he emphasized.

Additionally, Guillermo Fernandez, the president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, said the Panama Refinery does not trust Panamanian laws and, thus, requires excessive benefits in the contract with the government to ensure the security of its investment.

Fernandez added that the refinery has to be given the assurances it seeks by other means. "Gentlemen, the refinery is telling us: We do not believe in your laws. We do not believe in your citizens. We do not believe in your ministers. We do not believe in your president."

On 16 December, the Union of Workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (Sitirhe) will formally ask that the current contract between the Panama Refinery and the government be returned for its "correct renegotiation," Sitirhe Secretary General Constantino Nunez told LA PRENSA.

"We will have a news conference at 1000 on 16 December. We will be accompanied by our lawyers and advisers and together we will ask the Legislative Assembly plenum to return the contract for its renegotiation to the Executive Branch," Nunez stated.

The source added that the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE) workers are requesting that the Executive Branch and the firm renegotiate the contract and that the sectors, that are involved in or will be negatively affected by it, be invited to the process.

"There are many clauses in the contract that will directly and negatively affect IRHE as the Refinery would be given privileges that go beyond the protectionism afforded private firms," Nunez added.

The Sitirhe secretary explained that the Refinery is given the right to generate electricity and to sell the surplus to a currently nonexistent company.

Bolivia

Presence of Foreign Troops in Country Clarified

PY1712211292 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] According to Article 46 of the Armed Forces Organic Law that was approved yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies by the deputies of the Patriotic Accord and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], the Congress will only have to authorize the presence of armed foreign troops as established by the Constitution.

The armed forces members who carry out "diplomatic, technical, academic, or humanitarian aid missions who are not armed" will not be considered a "troop," therefore they will not be treated as a troop.

Article 46. The Defense Ministry, on behalf of the commander of the Armed Forces, will submit to the Executive Power the request to get authorization from the Legislative Power for the transit of foreign troops in the territory of the Republic establishing the length of their stay, and also authorization for the travel of national troops abroad in accordance with the constitution.

Generically the word "troop" is defined as any organized armed force for military or civic action operations.

The members of the armed forces who carry out diplomatic, technical, academic, or humanitarian aid missions who are not armed will not be considered a troop.

Deputies of the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] and the United Left rejected the approval of that article, saying that with the explanation of the word "troop" as an "organized armed force" an attack was made on national sovereignty by assuming the existence of "inoffensive" foreign military missions for the country.

The deputies recalled that none of the U.S. missions with or without arms were "innocent" with regard to Latin America and the rest of the world, therefore that article would endorse the permanence of military members which under the pretext of "technical" missions would have another type of "work" to fulfill.

They said: "Let us recall that the armed conflicts in Vietnam and El Salvador began with the presence of unarmed members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and without visible bad intentions."

They also recalled that wars no longer depend exclusively on weapons but on the use of bacteriological material or other sophisticated technology which could be introduced without any objection from Congress.

Government Clears Up 'Doubts' Over USC Candidate

PY1812150892 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] (ANF)—The government on 3 December cleared up a veil of doubts created around National Bolivian Brewery President Max Fernandez Rojas. "Max Fernandez has nothing to do with (Bolivian) drug trafficking connections," Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra said categorically.

With that statement, the Interior Ministry issued some sort of a "antinarcotics safe conduct certificate" in favor of the candidate for president of the Republic in the forthcoming general elections for the populist party Solidarity Civic Union (UCS).

The interior minister voiced his fears that the issue could have been handled from a political standpoint, and for this reason he insisted on the fact that to give an answer to the request for information by a Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland] congressman demands a thorough investigation. Obviously, the interior minister has established the existence of commercial relations between the brewery businessman and Bismark Barrientos, the presumed drug trafficker detained in Argentina, but explained that those relations "are things that concern Max Fernandez directly," and that it is not the Interior Ministry's task to analyze them.

The only thing done by the interior minister was to ratify point number one of his response to the petition for information requested by Deputy Gonzalo Ruiz (Condepa): "Question—Minister, tell us whether the FELCN [Special Antinarcotics Force] or other organizations have investigated the commercial links between Mr. Max Fernandez Rojas and some drug traffickers." The immediate answer by the minister says: "There are no investigations because the FELCN has not received any accusation against Mr. Max Fernandez Rojas related to the drug trafficking crime."

However, the third response to the petition for information states: "In relation to the commercial ties between Max Fernandez and Bismark Barrientos, it is known that Mr. Bismark Barrientos was the only distributor of Pacena beer in Argentina, and his wife's name is listed as the distribution company's owner."

After a cabinet meeting, the interior minister said the following: "According to the information given (to Deputy Ruiz), there are no ties between Max Fernandez and drug trafficking because this has been thoroughly studied. The commercial ties are something he has to resolve himself. A detailed investigation has been made and no connection has been found."

He added that the Interior Ministry has studied "the commercial relations issue very briefly" because his ministry has nothing to do with it, "but since it was a petition for information by a national deputy, we did carry out some investigations." He added that any other statement on these matters "has no effect or validity."

Brazil

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit with Clinton

PY1712234792 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso praised the U.S. president-elect's goals and said Brazil will not have any problems in its relationship with that country.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Alessandra Anselmo from the Foreign Ministry] Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is optimistic about future relations between Brazil and the United States.

During his recent three-day visit to that country, the Brazilian foreign minister met various members of President-elect Bill Clinton's team.

Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso noted that, after his meetings, it became clear that Brazil and the United States champion common points such as democracy, human rights, and the environment, which will enhance the relationship between the two countries.

[Cardoso] The Clinton administration is an administration that begins under the sign of the advocacy of employment and social issues, the environment, human rights, and representative democracy. We are also interested in these issues. We share these issues. I believe we have all the conditions for a good relationship.

[Anselmo] Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said the priority assigned by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to social problems should encourage international financial agencies to invest more in education, health, science, and technology in Brazil. [end recording]

Court Rejects Collor's Postponement Request

PY1712234592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2318 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Dec (EFE)—The Brazilian Supreme Court today turned down an injunction submitted by the suspended Brazilian president, Fernando Collor de Mello, requesting the postponement of the decision of the impeachment trial scheduled for 22 December.

After six of the eight votes of the magistrates had been counted, five had voted against Collor's request, and they ratified that 22 December will be the date for the verdict of the Senate impeachment trial.

The decision of the other two judges will not alter the decision to reject the injunction because only five favorable votes were needed to hand down a decision.

The trial's eventual postponement, possibly until January 1993, would have had serious political implications due to the role of Itamar Franco as "acting" president. Franco must be ratified in his post by the probable unfavorable verdict that will be handed down against Collor.

Congressional Reaction to Krause's Resignation

PY1712212192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Text] Minister Gustavo Krause's resignation shook the National Congress and changed the pace of the work.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Andrea Boni from Brasilia] The news about the resignation of the finance minister caught the National Congress by surprise. Several committees stopped working, and the congress focused on the discussion of the new salary policy and changes in the economic team.

[Deputy Delfim Neto, Democratic Social Party-Sao Paulo State] I am somewhat saddened by Krause's departure because he was a good professional and a good politician. He was trying to set a course.

[Deputy Aluisio Mercadante, Workers Party, Sao Paulo] A change of ministers is unsettling and tends to worsen inflation and hamper the efforts to stabilize the country. I am greatly concerned.

[Senator Roberto Campos, Democratic Social Party-Mato Grosso State] It sends disturbing signs to the markets. After all, we just went through a shake up of ministers, and the country needs tranquillity and a firm guiding hand.

[Deputy Jose Serra, Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Sao Paulo State] I believe that he was working seriously, the same as Minister Paulo Haddad, and I would prefer that this had not happened. It would have been better for the country.

[Boni] The minister submitted his resignation just before the fiscal adjustment is due to be voted on in Congress. Many congressmen believe that the negotiations will not stop, but the administration itself already admits that the negotiations have been harmed.

[Announcer] According to Roberto Freire, government bloc leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Gustavo Krause's departure will delay the approval of the fiscal reform bill even further.

[Freire] His departure is a breach of the status quo and causes a crisis. I harbor no doubts, however, that we will overcome this crisis, handle the situation, and quickly continue with the economic policy that the administration is implementing. [end recording]

Franco To Summon Congress To Convene in Jan

PY1812020092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Excerpt] The administration is getting ready for the cabinet meeting that will take place during the weekend. President Itamar Franco wants to discuss with his ministers three programs aimed at resuming economic growth. The administration's main concern is to make it clear to everyone that Minister Gustavo Krause's departure does not imply a change in the economic policy.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Luiz Carlos Braga from Brasilia] President Itamar Franco reiterated to government bloc leaders in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate that he will appoint the new economy minister only after the impeachment is voted on in the Senate. He added that the economic policy will not undergo any changes.

[Senator Pedro Simon, government bloc leader in the Senate] Rumors about economic shocks and price control are absolutely untrue. There are absolutely no plans for such actions, and the decision to name the planning minister as acting finance minister is intended to convey this message to society.

[Braga] During his meeting with congressional leaders, President Franco decided that he will summon Congress to work in January. The idea is to approve the bill on fiscal reform as soon as possible. Government congressional leaders now will get in touch with party leaders and the chairmen of Congress to set the date on which Congress will convene. The tentative date is 11 January. President Franco will meet with his cabinet on 18 and 19 December. He wants to know what each minister is doing and what are the main problems they have encountered so far. [end recording]

Let us now go to a live relay from Brasilia where our reporter Alexandre Garcia has some news for us.

[Begin Alexandre Garcia live relay] Government House sources reiterated just a short while ago that President Franco will take his time in appointing Finance Minister Gustavo Krause's replacement. He wants someone who can make a contribution and who will have a modern approach to the nation's economy and the social issues. Two names stand out among the many that politicians have suggested to the president: Paulo Nogueira Batista Junior and Dercio Garcia Munoz. [passage omitted] [end relay]

Chile

Government Discusses Honecker Case, Somalia

PY1812020292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] On 21 December, the government will adopt a decision on its cooperation with the UN peace force in Somalia. This statement was made today by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

Somalia, the Honecker case, and in a less public manner, the continental glaciers issue, are the main subjects of Chilean national and international concerns.

Concerning the possible arrival of former GDR leader Erich Honecker to Chile, there is talk now that he might spend some time in Chile with his relatives now that he is dying of cancer. This is what the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] Considering the theory that Mr. Honecker is qualified to enter the country like any other foreigner, that is, that he has a passport issued by the country to which he belongs, etc., and that there are no impediments such as the fact that he is facing trial, and so forth and so on; obviously the doors of our country will be open for him. [end recording]

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and the foreign minister will probably adopt a decision by 21 December on possible aid to Somalia. It has been said that Chile could send an Army contingent to join the peace task force in the region. This force is led by the United States and promoted by the United Nations. The final decision on this matter will be made by the president of the Republic by next week.

[Begin recording] [Silva Cimma] On 21 December, I will meet with the defense minister to adopt a decision and submit a joint proposal to President Aylwin.

[Unidentified reporter] Did the U.S. Government ask for the political cooperation of Chile in the case of Somalia?

[Silva Cimma] No. Well, it has been requested in the terms that I already told you once. We are going to discuss this matter with the defense minister on 21 December. [end recording]

The United States has formally requested the formation of political cooperation in the peace operation. The request was made in Santiago by U.S. Ambassador Curtis Warren Kamman.

The U.S. Government has formally asked Chile for its cooperation in the peace task force operations the United Nations is carrying out in that African country, in the sense that food assistance to the Somali people will arrive in a quick and orderly manner.

Concerning the continental glaciers issue, which at this moment remains under diplomatic silence, the government is waiting for congressional ratification of the treaty. The foreign minister said the issue is being followed and is also permanently under study.

Concerning possible arbitration if the treaty is not confirmed, he said it is possible.

Colombia

Senate Closes, Delays Internal Disturbance Debate

PA1712044492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Despite the government's asking the Senate to pass the draft bill regulating the state of internal disturbance, the Senate decided to postpone its final debate until March. The Senate activities concluded on 16 December for 1992.

In the final session, the senators decided that the draft bill regulating the state of internal disturbance is still in its early stages. Bernardo Zuluaga, Hope, Peace, and Liberty Party senator, made over 20 modifications, including new articles and reforms to the draft bill. Zuluaga proposed to delay debating the draft bill until March. Meanwhile, Senator Andres Pastrana proposed that the regulations on the media be drawn up again. Here is what Senator Pastrana said:

[Being Pastrana recording] Fundamentally, the U.S. Human Rights Agreement establishes freedom of expression and of the press as a human right. These are protected by the U.S. Human Rights Agreement. These are granted priority even over the Constitution. [end recording]

The new Senate President Tito Rueda took office bearing an olive branch. According to Rueda, much more has to be done to achieve peace.

[Begin Rueda recording] I invite the government, the executive branch, the legislative branch, the judicial branch, the community in general, the unions, the workers, and the church to unite to discuss this important issue. All Colombian citizens have this obligation. [end recording]

Jaime Bogota Marin, Senator Rafael Forrero's alternate, who participated for the first time, felt his parliamentary seat was not secure when Senator Orlando Vasquez publicly reminded him that he still has not demonstrated he was publicly elected. Bogota Marin has not presented the official registration documents. At the close of the Senate sessions, and of his semester as president, Senator Jose Blackburn recalled that 25 draft bills had been passed and that others were left in progress at the Senate.

Bomb Kills 7, Wounds 8 in Casanare Department

PA1612200392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Seven people were killed in the worst terrorist attack reported in Colombia on the night of 14 December. It happened on the outskirts of Yopal, capital of Casanare Department. Seven persons died when a car bomb exploded. Eight more were wounded. Here is a report by Jose Luis Ramirez.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] The guerrillas had announced it; the people of Yopal sensed it. Rebels of the Army of National Liberation had threatened on repeated occasions to conduct bomb attacks on the city and the police precinct. They made good on their threat. The apparent calm was broken when this car bomb, carrying 120 kg of dynamite, shattered the peace in the region, killing seven people and wounding eight.

[Casanare Police Commander Colonel Miguel Mesa] The rebels are attacking the people and the legitimately constituted armed corps. [Ramirez] A preliminary investigation revealed the car bomb exploded ahead of schedule. It was also reported one guerrilla was killed by the shockwave. The car, loaded with dynamite, was abandoned near the department's electricity plant, which was apparently the objective. The victims were passers by.

[Casanare Department Governor Oscar Leonidas Wilches] The people strongly condemn this act of terrorism, which was heretofore unheard of in this department. There is no room here for violent people. With these actions they lost credibility and support among the people.

[Ramirez] According to the authorities, the guerrillas have constantly harassed and sieged Casanare, although a terrorist act of this magnitude had never been registered in the department. [end recording]

Police Deactivate Bombs in Cucuta, Medellin

PA1812155392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Cucuta police deactivated 18 explosive devices today in different parts of the city. Authorities in Medellin, meanwhile, found a truck loaded with 10 kg of dynamite, which was set to go off when the engine was started. The police are also searching for the murderers of three youths, who were apparently connected with the armed wing of the Medellin Cartel.

The body of Carlos Eduardo Posada Valencia, also known as Tobacco, was found on Ancon Avenue in La Estrella Municipality. Although he has no record, his murder gained prominence when it was proven that he is the brother of John Jairo Posada, also known as Titi. The police have identified Titi as a member of the Medellin Cartel and the owner of the Elegia Ranch, where police found 350 kg of dynamite earlier this week. Very little has been learned about the murder. Apparently he and two other men, whose bodies were also found before dawn nearby, were detained on the evening of 16 December by a group of armed men.

The body of Juan Gil, also known as Juan Malo, was found inside a vehicle on La Ferreria Avenue, in the same municipality. As far as police have been able to determine, Gil was a bus dispatcher at La Estrella bus terminal. The body of Juan Luis Lalinde was found some 300 meters further along the avenue. The authorities are looking into these three men's possible participation in the latest terrorist attacks in Medellin, the capital of Antioquia Department.

Peru

Government Grants Safe-Conduct to Alberto Borea

PA1812023392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0103 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has reported that the Peruvian Government has granted a safe-conduct to Alberto Borea, former Senate president. According to the Supreme Council of Military Justice, Alberto Borea was involved in the 13 November coup attempt. Borea can now leave the country and seek asylum in Costa Rica.

After three days in the Costa Rican Embassy, Borea flew to Costa Rica early on the morning of 17 December. In the afternoon of 16 December, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry reportedly received official communication from the Costa Rican Government granting him political asylum.

Fujimori on Arrest of MRTA Leader in Germany

PA1612205692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has confirmed the arrest of terrorist Lucero Cumpa of the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], which took place weeks ago in Germany. The government has undertaken steps to have her extradited.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] She was captured some months ago in Germany, and the Peruvian Government has requested the extradition of the so-called Comrade Cumpa. We are working on that.

To benefit from the Repentance Law [Ley de Arrepentimiento], she must provide more information. For instance, information about other MRTA leaders, so that we can capture them. The Repentance Law is not just about saying I repent, having committed the crimes, but rather I repent and here is the information about where you can find those who committed crimes and who they are. She must even cooperate in their capture. That has not yet happened in the case of Comrade Cumpa.

[Unidentified reporter] Would she have to come to Peru to be tried?

[Fujimori] She would have to come so that we can evaluate her situation. I repeat, the Peruvian Government is requesting her extradition.

[Reporter] What steps are still pending to complete her extradition?

[Fujimori] Extradition processes are very bothersome and slow. I hope it will be completed soon. [end recording]

In 1990 MRTA leader Lucero Cumpa, along with Victor Polay Campos and 47 other MRTA rebels, led the spectacular escape from the Canto Grande Jail. She is considered the third ranking member in this terrorist organization's hierarchy.

Lucero Cumpa, alias Comrade Lucy, was born in Lima in 1964. She is a psychologist. She joined the MRTA while still very young. Her cold blood allowed her to climb up in the MRTA hierarchy to become the third ranking member. She was a lover of Victor Polay Campos, leader of the terrorist organization.

It was with Comrade Rolando [Victor Polay Campos] that she headed the spectacular escape on 9 July 1990, in the late days of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance government. On that date, she escaped with Polay and the other 47 MRTA rebels from the Canto Grande Jail through a tunnel that took several months to build. On 29 February 1991 she was recaptured, and on 9 March she was rescued by an MRTA commando who intercepted the Police vehicle that was driving Comrade Lucy to the Justice Ministry to make a statement. Two policemen were killed, and two were wounded during the operation, which took only a few minutes.

Since that day, nothing else was heard of her until two days ago, when it was learned that she had been arrested in Germany, as President Fujimori confirmed on 15 December. The president also said her extradition has been requested.

Life Sentence Confirmed for Shining Path Leader

PA1712175592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Supreme Council of Military Justice [Consejo Supremo de Justicia Militar] has reconfirmed the life sentence given to Marta Huatay Ruiz, a leader of the Shining Path. The decision was made following the invalidation of a resolution condemning the maximum penalty for Huatay Ruiz. The Supreme Council also ratified the payment of $10 million as civil reparations in favor of the state, as well as the seizure of properties and materials seized from Huatay during police investigations.

Change 90 Leader on Relations With New Majority

PA1712164392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Andres Reggiardo, Change 90 general secretary, thinks the disagreements between his group and the New Majority should end. He urged fellow party members to vote for the New Majority Movement Coalition on 29 January.

[Begin recording] [Reggiardo] We have friendly relations with the New Majority. We are all friends and are working toward the same goals. I want to overcome these

disagreements that some opposition groups are trying to present as a fait accompli, which is untrue.

[Unidentified reporter] Divisions have been reported in places like Tarapoto and Chimbote.

[Reggiardo] No. There will always be people whose personal interests come first and who will always want to be in the limelight. But that is why we, the leaders, are here. We are here to promote feelings of unity and team spirit and to prevent personal and individual interests from prevailing in our group. [end recording]

Government Implements Agreement with Venezuela

PA1612224792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Peruvian Government has implemented the trade agreement signed with Venezuela on 23 October, within the framework of Resolution 321 of the Cartagena Agreement. The agreement provides for total elimination of restrictions on products manufactured and originating from both countries, classified under the area's tariff statutes. Likewise, Peru and Venezuela must eliminate all types of restrictions that affect the import of products originating from both nations. Nevertheless, there is a protective clause that allows the application of corrective measures —of a temporary nature—in the event the imports under the trade agreement cause or threaten to cause harm to the domestic production of products of either nation.

Venezuela

Four Deaths Reported in Western Caracas Protest

PA1712213492 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2025 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Caracas, 17 Dec (DPA)—A street protest resulted in four deaths and 200 arrests. The protest took place on 17 December in western Caracas and involved people who identified themselves as members of the Red Flag extreme leftist group, Colonel Juan Lizardi Veliz, chief of the Police Intelligence Division has reported.

The police told the media that about 1,000 policemen were needed to control the demonstrators who repelled the policemen with weapons. Sergeant Florencio Escalona was injured during the clash.

The demonstrators used loudspeakers to incite the people to loot businesses. They were carrying red and black flags while traveling on motorcycles, the police said.

"Investigations are under way to determine whether the four dead, who were identified as Douglas Yusti, Gerardo Lopez, Iracet Diaz, and Alexander Medina, are really members of the outlawed Red Flag," a police source added.

CSE Reviews Election Results in Barinas State

PA1612224892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has remained in permanent session to analyze the elections in Barinas State, where two candidates were declared winners. Jose Marcano has the following report:

[Begin recording] [Marcano] After the CSE decided on 12 December that the main electoral board is responsible for proclaiming the governor-elect in Barinas State, as in all other states, some members of the board proclaimed Gerald Cartae of the Social Christian Party, Copei, the winner.

Hours later, other members of the board met and counted the 53 [number as heard] pending electoral ballets and proclaimed Rafael Rosales Pena, of the Democratic Action Party, AD, the winner.

On 14 December several members of the main electoral board, including Omar Behrens, went to the CSE. Omar Behrens said that from a legal standpoint, Rosales Pena's proclamation is not valid.

[Behrens] At 0800 we proclaimed candidate Gerald Cartae the winner. At 1330 two replacements, representing the Authentic Renewal Organization [ORA] and AD members arrived at the CSE. The ORA representative is replacing a so-called Mr. Gaviria and Osvaldo Caravallo, who until now was the AD permanent member, was replaced by AD Secretary General Maldonado. This is illegal because the CSE must make the decision to replace a member of the main electoral board. The replacements arrived at 1330 with credentials signed by CSE President Isidro Morales Paul. This is illegal because the entire CSE, and not the president alone, must make that decision. [end recording]

Morales Paul said he had to replace members of the electoral boards in various parts of the country. He added he had to do the same in Barinas State.

[Begin Morales recording] If I cannot replace the members [pauses]....this is done automatically, it is not my decision. The members of the parties replace the members automatically. Do you want me to tell you how many replacements have been made nationwide? Approximately 40, which would mean that none of the replacements made by the political parties would be valid. [end recording]

Morales Paul urged representatives from the various political parties not to make statements to the media regarding alleged fraud without any basis. He added that if there is evidence, it should be presented to the pertinent authorities—the CSE—and if necessary to the Supreme Court of Justice. He urged them not to report alleged fraud to the media without any evidence.

Appoints New Electoral Board

PA1712043592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] on 16 December appointed a new Central Electoral Board in Barinas State to resolve, once and for all, the problem of the double proclamation of winners in that state.

The CSE intervened in the Central Electoral Board in Barinas State and appointed a new board. The measure adopted by the CSE received the votes of CSE President Isidro Morales Paul, Antonio Jose Urbina, Rafael Lander, Miguel Espidel, and Jose Lira. Social Christian Party representative Freddy Delgado Dalo, Ivan Ezquerre of the Movement for Socialism, and Acting First Vice President Paparoni abstained from voting.

[Begin recording] [Morales Paul] We call on the supporters of both candidates to remain calm and be understanding. This will permit the newly appointed Central Electoral Board to assess the situation. We urge the supporters of both candidates and the loser to respect the election results. The loser still has legal means to appeal the results.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] new elections?

[Morales Paul] The new board has the full authority to decide on that matter.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] new elections?

[Morales Paul] The new board will decide that matter. It is not up to the CSE to tell the Central Electoral Board what they should do. They should only fulfill their responsibilities. [end recording]

Regarding the rumors on the possible resignation of CSE President Isidro Morales Paul, he stated he has tough skin and he will not resign until he deems it convenient.

Interview With Foreign Minister on Coup Attempt

PY1812140092 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p 18

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich by PAGINA/12 reporter Walter Goobar in Buenos Aires during the Rio Group summit on 1-2 December]

[Text] [Goobar] As a member of the Armed Forces, how did you feel when you were being bombarded by your own brothers in arms?

[Ochoa Antich] I was both dismayed and angry. It is unbelievable that the arms of the country should be used to bombard the presidential palace, and even worse, to attack civilian targets in the city of Caracas. The insurgent officers lacked all sense of discernment, and when they bombarded the Miraflores Palace they also affected civilians and caused a great number of casualties. This is one of the serious responsibilities they will have to assume before the courts and before history.

[Goobar] Now, with regard to the military code of ethics...

[Ochoa Antich] First, the coupists will have to answer for having risen against the government; second, for having used the arms of the country indiscriminately against the people; third, for having fired upon the Armed Forces alma mater, namely the Air Force School, their own school, in a most dreadful bombardment.

[Goobar] Much has been said about the parallelism between what happened in Venezuela and the painted faces here. What are the differences and similarities between the Argentine painted faces and the Venezuelan Bolivarians?

[Ochoa Antich] I believe that they are somewhat similar inasmuch as they are both rabid nationalists, with dangerously extreme views, which are intermingled in politics. The extreme right often sides with the extreme left to resort—quite absurdly I should add—to violence, as is sometimes the case. With regard to Lieutenant Colonel Chavez, he is a leftist, and is linked to groups advocating the use of violence—the most notorious exponent of which is Shining Path—and which end up proposing anarchic theories. Chavez had no sooner appeared on television, urging the people to take to the streets, than groups having that absurd penchant for anarchy also appeared, prodding the people to kill Venezuelans en masse. These proposals subsequently led to the killing of innocent people. As for your question, I believe they are rabid nationalists who are mixed up ideologically and have a most dangerous passion for using violence. The point of greatest similarity is that both believe they can solve social problems by resorting absurdly to violence.

[Goobar] Is that a question of messianism?

[Ochoa Antich] There is a great deal of messianism in it. I believe that both characters are very similar. Both are people who are undoubtedly endowed with a charisma that elicits support, but through acts of violence and by stretching military principles.

[Goobar] And yet the Venezuelan Government—and even yourself—played a similar role when you had to subdue the Caracas uprising [Caracazo], a riot that left a great trail of bloodshed. When it comes to the use of violence, nobody has an unblemished record.

[Ochoa Antich] It goes without saying that the use of violence is a most serious matter. You mention the fact that I also resorted to violence. In point of fact I was the commander of one of the largest units in Venezuela at the time of the Caracas uprising, and despite being such a complex garrison there were only two casualties. On 4 February I had 20 casualties during such a delicate and

difficult rebellion. This is why I understand and appreciate in its proper magnitude what a human life is worth. Now the insurgent officers and the political sectors which supported them are solely responsible for the bloodshed on 27 November, because the loyal troops did not kill anybody when they regained control of the units.

[Goobar] Corruption and discredit of politicians seem a common issue in Latin American politics....

[Ochoa Antich] In world politics, I would say....

[Goobar] Yes, as of recently, especially in Venezuelan politics. Corruption, the discredit of politicians, and wild economic adjustments have been considered the causes that provoked the Caracas uprising and the two military revolts. What is the most important of these three factors?

[Ochoa Antich] I don't think such a complex social phenomenon can be attributed to a single cause. Instead of focusing on the problem of corruption, I would say that national leaders have been worn out, because the origin of the Venezuelan crisis is essentially economic in nature. It is a consequence of the loss of social expectations caused by the oil price drop. In the absence of a valid alternative, this problem has caused a headache for the political leadership. National leaders have been unable to properly solve this problem. Because of the sacrifice it is making, society can clearly perceive the imperfections of leaders. With the very strong adjustment progam that had to be implemented in order to overcome the economic crisis, things which occurred in the past and which society accepted because the sacrifices were not exaggerated are now bothering people, as they see that a privileged social class is unfairly enjoying benefits from the use and abuse of power. I believe the entire national leadership is responsible for it.

[Goobar] Do you think the crisis was over with the defeat of the rebels?

[Ochoa Antich] The crisis was not over with the defeat of the rebels. The crisis is over because the Venezuelan people have rejected the coup. This political failure will conclusively convince those who believe they can seize power through force. The important thing that occurred on 27 November is that the Chavez myth is over. Venezuelan democracy has emerged stronger from the crisis. I am convinced that the Venezuelan people's rejection of the coup attempt will strengthen the only civilized system for resolving problems, which is the voting system.

[Goobar] A vast majority of Venezuelans have demanded an earlier end to President Perez' term. Does Carlos Andres Perez admit that?

[Ochoa Antich] It is not the whole truth that the Venezuelan people are demanding President Perez' resignation. The latest polls reveal that a very large sector of the population want social and political changes, but do not want the resignation of the president, as the president's resignation would cause a highly inappropriate situation of social instability. President Perez has come out stronger for the 27 November process and will end his term without any problems.

[Goobar] What do you think of the idea of a multi-party government?

[Ochoa Antich] I don't think the nation wants a coalition government. The nation wants political agreements, bringing the people with the best qualifications to the government, instead of letting parties share the posts in the administration.

[Goobar] Writer and former presidential candidate Uslar Pietri, who is considered among the most capable men, has repeatedly asked for Perez' resignation. What do you think about Pietri's opinion?

[Ochoa Antich] Dr. Uslar Pietri is a man who commands respect. As of recently, his political position has caused controversy. He deserves the Venezuelan people's respect, but I do not agree with some of his latest proposals.

[Goobar] Do you doubt his devotion to democracy?

[Ochoa Antich] No, I don't doubt his devotion to democracy.